



# INTERCOM

A Newsletter for students and others contributing to the  
Commonwealth Youth Programme

Volume 3. Issue 3

October 2006

## *From the Editor*

Hallo to the CYP community, I am very glad to be chatting to you again. Our last edition for the year is really a bumper one. Thank-you for your contributions. We have terrific representation from around the globe. I noted in our article from Fiji, Tarusila identified the importance of us all keeping abreast of local, national and international affairs. In our CYP community we are certainly doing this, as Intercom becomes such a voice. We have articles from the Pacific, the Carribean, which inci-

dentally forms our interesting fact section in this edition, India and even information about a conference next year in Sierra Leone. We have some congratulations to one of our students in Sri Lanka Nisantha Mallawaarachchi. Nisantha often writes to me to keep me abreast of issues facing young people in Pakistan. He has become an advocate and an important voice for young people. We also say farewell to Irene Paulsen from the Pacific office. Irene will be known to many of you as the Senior Program Officer in the Pacific. Irene, as I have reported

earlier, is working with me at Victoria University and we are delighted to have her working with us at the University.

You continue to make Intercom a dynamic part of your CYP experience and I am very happy to be a part of it.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to speaking with you. Our first edition for 2007 will be in March.

Cheers  
Robyn

## **Interesting Facts—British Virgin Isles**

Although named by Columbus, many diverse groups of people have called the Virgin Islands home.

The economy of the British Virgin Islands is one of the most prosperous in the Caribbean.

The BVI's economic engine is fuelled mainly by tourism.

Over fifty islands make up this Caribbean destination

## **Quotable Quote:**

*"I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent."*

Mahatma Gandhi

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## **...CONGRATULATIONS ...CONGRATULATIONS ... CONGRATULATIONS ...CONGRAGULATIONS**

*In recognition of his work, CYP student, Pradeep Nisantha Mallawaarachchi, received The Outstanding Young Persons Award from HSBC CEO for Sri Lanka Mr. David JH Griffiths, at the awarding ceremony held at CEYLON CONTINENTAL Hotel, Colombo. "I am proud to have friends like you those encourage me a lot in all these achievements," Nisantha says to the CYP community.*

*It is one of the prestigious international awards. Every year, young men and women, between 18 to 40 years, may be nominated in one of ten categories. The Programme serves to recognize outstanding individuals, whose personal achievements in a chosen field are outstanding, exemplarily and nationally beneficial.*

## THE DELIVERY OF THE UWI/CYP DIPLOMA IN YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (BVI)

*By Arlene L. Smith*

*Ministry of Education and Culture  
Government of the British Virgin Islands  
Country Coordinator  
UWI/CYP Diploma in Youth in Development Work*



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Development Work in 2004. I would help to support and equip our young people with the skills that they will need for entrepreneurship and enterprise development. Altogether, these initiatives are part of the BVI Government's mandate for developing the talents and abilities of our territory's young people. It is in this vein that the Ministry of Education and Culture seized the opportunity to partner with UWI and CYP in delivering the Diploma in Youth in

### **Overview of Recent Advances in Youth Development in the BVI**

The British Virgin Islands is experiencing significant growth at this point in time as it relates to Youth in Development Work. In addition to the establishment of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports in 2004, our Ministry of Education and Culture has also recently established a Technical/Vocational Programme in collaboration with the local H. Lavity Stoutt Community College to provide skills training for unattached youth ages 18-30 in communities around the BVI that would enable them to become more productive citizens. The Ministry is also in the final stages of implementing a Youth Enterprise Development Programme that

### **Development Work in 2004. Lessons Learnt from the Delivery of the Diploma Programme**

As the BVI Country Coordinator for the UWI/CYP Diploma in Youth in Development Work, I quickly found that it was necessary to 'wear several hats', particularly in providing students with the level of support that they needed. To this end, I often found myself performing the role of 'motivator', for some students that were disillusioned for one reason or another. All in all, these experiences have helped to cement my beliefs about being patient and understanding even in the face of seemingly difficult situations. Perhaps the most rewarding part of this journey for me as Country Coordinator was getting the opportu-

### **The Final Analysis**

Today I beam with pride at the thought that the BVI would graduate its first cohort of 10 students for the Diploma in Youth in Development Work. I am excited about the collective contributions that they will make towards advancing youth issues in the BVI. Already, proposals are being considered about ways in which this wealth of knowledge could be effectively utilized. In retrospect, however, this milestone could not have been attained had it not been for the hard work of the aforementioned individuals and organizations. I commend them highly for their commitment and dedication in ensuring that our students were provided with opportunities to excel in a very supportive environment.

## My CYP Diploma - Fiji Experience

By Tarusila Bradburgh Youth worker, Fiji Department of Youth and Sports

To have finally completed and graduated from the CYP Diploma in Youth in Development Work on September 1<sup>st</sup> could not have come at a better time since I began working in the Ministry of Youth & Sports in 2003 as a Youth Officer.

The programme content provided a variety of development tools on how to work with young people, which is such a necessity at a time when young people are faced with a wide range of issues. The content also reinforces the need to continue to relook at our methods of service delivery and our approaches to our youth work. It also raises the question of whether as youth workers we are updating ourselves as to what is happening around us either at National, Regional or at a Global level.

The whole Diploma programme has given me a new dimension to youth development work, first and foremost, through elevating my standard of youth work. I believe when youth work is professionalized, there is this whole shift from the way we perceive youth work, to the provision of services, and one is rejuvenated with the commitment, the passion and the sacrifice to really make a difference in the lives of the young people that we serve. I have found the modules to be relevant, both directly and indirectly, in my everyday work.

There have been many things I have learnt, in particular the two Modules on Gender and Development and Project Planning Monitoring and Evaluation have shown me that these are two areas of my work that need to be strengthened. The development of young women is still a challenge when we speak of youth development in Fiji, and the Pacific Region. The traditional roles that young women play often mean a lack of emphasis on their full participation in youth projects and programmes. For someone who advocates the need to develop young women, it made me re-look at my commitment to being a young women's advocate and what the gaps were. On Project Planning Monitoring and Evaluation, I realized that often as youth workers we complicate our youth work by developing complicated project proposals and monitoring and evaluation templates when we can be as simple as can be. I totally believe the Programme will only get better and better as it moves into the near future and will greatly serve the needs of youth workers, youth leaders and the young people. I would love to see that the CYP Youth Exchange Programme is revived where students get to do Exchange programmes in other countries during the Semester break.

As I look forward to greater things, including reminding myself of the importance of 'continuing education', I realize that the journey has just begun towards exciting things for me as a Youth Worker and a young woman!

I am proud to be a graduate from the CYP Diploma Youth in Development Work Programme and congratulate those that have also recently completed the Programme. May I acknowledge those that have been an influence and have been very supportive over the two years of the programme: my Parents, and Family, my husband and 5 year old son who are forever asking about the progress of my studies, my work Supervisor Mrs. Vani Samuwai and work mates, my class mates especially Jacque Koroi and Henry Rigamoto, the CYP for sponsorship and most especially to my Tutor and Course Supervisor, Ms Vivian Koster. Congratulations to her too as she recently graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in Social Policy Administration. She is an inspirational Youth Mentor so full of love, care and patience. Thank you Ms Koster!



*L-R: Tarusila with World YWCA General Secretary, Dr Musimbi Kanyoro and World YWCA President, Monica Zetzsche at the September World YWCA Executive Board Meeting. Tarusila is one of the 10 young women members on the 20 member Board and was nominated from the Pacific Region in 2003 and her term ends in 2007. It has been an empowering and learning 4 year experience being at the helm of decision making for such a global women's movement and ever advocating on the needs of young women. The CYP Programme contributed to my effective contribution and participation.*

# Caribbean Youth Day

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Commonwealth Secretary General, the Right Hon. Don McKinnon and the newly appointed Director of Youth Affairs, Dr. Fatiha Serour.

Today, Caribbean Youth Day is indeed an occasion to celebrate and pay tribute to the many young persons throughout the Caribbean who despite many challenges continue to make significant contributions to the sustainable development of their communities and societies.

However even as we pay tribute to these nation builders we remind mindful of the fact that the Caribbean like many other Commonwealth countries is caught in a struggle to effectively address the many youth development challenges, some which have undermined the basic tenets of our traditional modes of socialization and indeed poses a grave danger to the economic, social and even political stability of the Caribbean region.

Indeed in many of our societies there appears to be a prevailing climate of hopelessness and despair. It is this prevailing climate which dictates, that now, more than ever before Government, the youth movement, corporate sector, development organizations and civil society in general must engage in the building of sustainable partnerships to formulate, support and implement sustainable youth development policies and strategies.

Over the last thirty years the Commonwealth Youth Programme has engaged Governments and the Youth movement in a very successful partnership to help advance the regional youth development agenda. Together we have provided the Caribbean with hundreds of trained youth development workers. CYP has also made significant contributions to youth empowerment through appropriate advocacy initiatives, youth entrepreneurship programmes and the provision of capacity building opportunities for youth leaders and

youth development professionals.

One of the philosophical pillars of the CYP youth development strategy is that of an **evidenced based** approach to youth work. It is our firm belief that youth development programmes and strategies are irrelevant and insignificant if these are merely driven by myths and misinformation. The experience of your very own Youth Affairs Division here in Barbados confirms the significance and indeed correctness of formulating youth development policies, strategies and programmes on the basis of sound empirical data and facts.

However developing an evidenced based approach to youth work requires the emergence of a culture or better yet an ethos of credible research into youth development issues and challenges.

Yet we are mindful of the fact that the findings of such research activities assume real value only when these influence public policy, public debate and discourse.

It is for this reason we at the CYP have embarked on the publication of a quarterly Journal "**CARIBBEAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.**" The main purpose of this organ is to provide space for persons engaged in research on youth development issues to publish their findings and to help influence the policy development environment.

I wish to thank the government and people of Barbados, in particular the Honourable Minister of Youth, the Director of Youth Affairs and his colleagues and indeed Dr. Ivan Henry, for their support in making this venture a reality.

May you all be showered with divine blessings on this Caribbean Youth Day 2006.

*By: Henry Charles,  
Regional Director, CYP.*

## SEMINAR CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR YOUTH

BY REETA SENAWATBY

Department of Human Development PGSR in Home Science, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, India, conducted a seminar on "Conflict Resolution" in collaboration with Commonwealth Youth Program Asia centre, on 20 September at SNDT women's university at Juhu campus.

The seminar begun with the SNDT song "Sanskrita Stree Parashakti" which means an enlightened woman is source of infinity knowledge

Dr Chandra Krishnamurthy the vice chancellor delivered a welcome note. She highlighted the historical background of SNDT University, which is 90 years old. It is the first women's university in India with 180 colleges and 6 research associate colleges. Maharishi Karve started this noble task with five widows to educate and empower women economically. Since then, the university is progressing and

empowering women by imparting valuable knowledge to its students

Dr Reeta Sonawat, the coordinator of "Common Wealth Youth Programme" told participants about the CYP course, which is going on in the university. The aim of this seminar was to provide a forum where youth work professionals from SNDT Women's University and NGO representatives can discuss:

1. The various ways and means to promote active youth participation.
2. To explore conflicts, mediation and negotiation.
3. To study the nature of competing perspectives among youth and between youth and established society.

Ms. Saraswathy Rajagopal, Programme Manager Youth Development, CYP Asia Centre, sent a written message for participants. She recalled ancient Indian wis-

dom, which teaches us that our first responsibility is to the community, second to our family and third to ourselves. When this hierarchy is reversed, a society starts degenerating. She also quoted a study undertaken by Harvard University, which proves that the foundation of success is 85 % attitude and only 15 % knowledge and facts. So we need to start looking for what is right in a person, rather than focusing on what is wrong.

Ms Priya Dutt, Member of Parliament, was the chief guest for the occasion. She inaugurated the seminar by lighting of the lamp. In her inaugural speech she expressed, India is one of the youngest countries in the world, with a very large population in the youth category. In the present time macro factors like, globalization, industrialization, technological advancement, media explosion and liberalization of the market economy have brought about tremendous

changes in the lives of young people. She discussed the challenges faced by the youth in today's world. With progress life has become competitive and difficult. She mentioned that conflicts can be resolved by non violence. She strongly expressed that she would love to initiate programs centered on youth development, self-empowerment and education. Now the time has come when we recognize youth work education and training as a separate profession.

*(Continued on page 8)*



## Farewell to Irene Paulsen



### Reflections

I worked for CYP as Programme Manager for seven years from July 1999 and was based at the South Pacific Regional Centre in Honiara, Solomon Islands. After just one year at the Honiara office, the regional centre including three professional staff had to relocate to Brisbane in Australia due to political and social unrest in Honiara. The office continued to operate from Brisbane until January 2005 when it had to move back to Honiara where it is currently located..

Working for CYP was an interesting and rewarding experience for me. I had an opportunity to work with Governments and youth agencies in the fourteen Commonwealth member countries in the Region to implement youth programmes which was always a challenge as all the member countries were different in certain aspects – population, country size, and economic development. There were also major differences in terms of youth development needs and priorities in each of these countries. Some had youth policies in place that were already having an empowering effect on young people and there were those with limited youth development work. At best, it was difficult to determine the level of funding and professional support to provide each member country. But these challenges provided my team with very interesting and challenging roles.

At the centre, working with a small team was both enjoyable and rewarding. It was an excellent working environment with lots of support from the then Regional Director Jeff Bost and my colleague Peceli Viriki from Fiji. . We worked in close consultation with Youth Departments and NGO agencies in each of the member countries. As I was the leading officer for the Youth education and Training portfolio, I also got to work with academics from four regional Universities. These group of professionals were responsible for the successful delivery of the CYP Diploma in their respective institutions.. The CYP South Pacific Centre owes a lot to these course coordinators and regional moderators who often went beyond the call of duty to assist CYP with the Diploma programme.

The best part of working with CYP was that I met so


many wonderful people from all over the Commonwealth. These people were deeply committed individuals working on their own or in groups and were passionate about improving the lives of young people in their communities and countries. Some were working in very difficult and dangerous situations but they never lost sight of their common goal of empowering young people. They were dedicated and committed and believed in youth empowerment as an essential prerequisite for national and global development. For me, it was working with these kinds of people that made working with CYP the most rewarding.

During my period of work at CYP, several new initiatives were achieved within the Diploma programme in the South Pacific Region. We introduced the intensive workshop programme which was aimed at accelerating learners who were lagging behind in the course. The workshop was run by an external moderator and the in-country tutor and provided students the opportunity to work together under supervision to complete assignments and thus catch up with their peers. This approach was used with some of our Diploma students in New Zealand and the Solomon Islands and has proved to be very useful for retaining slow students in the programme.

Another successful event that was achieved during this time was the elevation of the CYP Diploma from Certificate level .Previously the University of the South Pacific (USP) had offered the CYP programme to its students as a Certificate. After some serious negotiations between USP authorities and CYP the course became approved and recognised as a Diploma level course in 2001.



I wish to make special mention here of my colleagues and friends at the CYP especially Cristal Desaldanha ,Youth Adviser at the Pan Commonwealth Office in London, Glennys James at the CYP Caribbean Centre and James Odit at the CYP Africa Centre who are continuing the youth development work in their regions, in particular through their involvement in the Diploma in Youth Work. I also wish to thank Jeff Bost and Peceli Viriki for help making my time at the CYP South Pacific Centre a memorable and enjoyable experience. Good luck guys. I also wish all the young people studying the Diploma in all the CYP regions the best of luck with your studies and a hope for good things for the future.

## *The International Youth Leadership Summit in Sierra Leone* 20-31 March 2007



**Miracle Corners Of The World  
Sierra Leone**

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Program Coordinator  
Miracle Corners the World Sierra Leone  
(MCWSL)  
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### **Why should you come to this International Youth Leadership Summit?**

- To share our experiences and discourse the way forward for global development amongst young people.
- Peace and stability of the country
- A rich and diverse cultural heritage
- To interact with other young people in the world.
- To come and experience Natural reserve and Sunshine beaches.
- Excellent African Cuisine
- A trip to Bunce Island (Former slave fort in West Africa) and related sites
- An opportunity to see the great Bintumani mountains and Wara Hills .

Sierra Leone is located on the west coast of Africa between latitudes 7 and 10 degrees north and longitudes 10.5 and 13 degrees west, it has 300 miles of coast.

The country is endowed with natural Tourism attractions, you can enter the unknown tropical paradise of Sierra Leone from luxurious rain forests to white sandy beaches, from the cool air of the hills to fresh breezes of the blue water of the Atlantic, this country has something to offer every

one.

You can also stroll down the old colonial town of Freetown where the famous cotton tree has resided for over 200 years. With beautiful islands with great history Sierra Leone has added it's own flavour, something each traveler/visitor should taste.

Also experience a national cultural show where traditional dancers gyrate and revel in the drums and music, as the sun slowly sinks into the horizon of the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy the inary delight of charming restaurants illuminated by the African moon from local African specialties to international cuisine, all your tastes will be pampered to , for more social sports, Sierra Leone offers gulf and tennis.

Take a walk through Tacugama reserve, home to rescued chimpanzees. A twenty minutes drive outside of Freetown takes you from the white sandy beaches to the lush coolness of the rain forest. Watch chimpanzees play in their natural habitat.

Whether you are looking for a quite romantic holiday, on business or a place to play in the sun, come and experience Sierra Leone.

## DIPLOMA IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORK 2<sup>ND</sup> OFFERING 2004 -2006

I have found my diploma experience to be of great value both in my personal life and my work with young people. No longer is it business as usual for me; as this learning will be demonstrated in my work.

At the beginning of the course I thought I would never see the end as there was so many obstacles in my way.

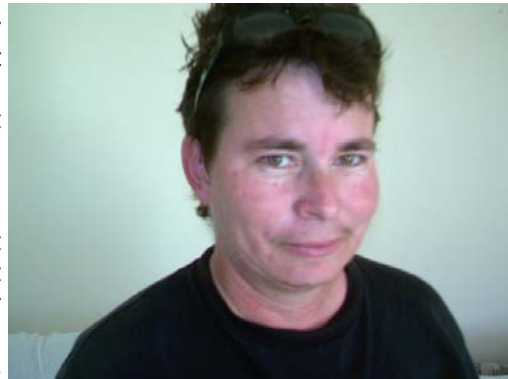
This Diploma is very useful to anyone in any setting working with young people as it brings meaning to your work. I can and will recommend it to all youth workers. You begin to see what you are really supposed to be doing for young people in this age of development. I also believe anyone working with young people should grasp the opportunity to better equip themselves through courses such as this as our young people today are being exposed to more issues than we had to go through. As facilitators we need to be equipped to help them or they will lose their great potential and society will have more problems to handle.

The problems I faced were in researching information in my country. It was like pulling teeth, not many people in the respective positions wanted to share with you. Another problem was at the beginning of the course, trying to come to grips with writing a Learning Journal and being told that we had to do all activities. However I soon got the hang of it and the activities, the minimum of which was done, were of great value as they helped to reinforce what we had learnt. After the departure of our Country Co-ordinator the tutors that we got were not trained in the process of what was required of them as they kept relying on us to tell them what to do. I must state however, that all tutors knew their subject area well and worked with us in a professional manner.

My recommendation to the Commonwealth Youth Programme, is to make sure that the Governments of all Commonwealth countries under-

stand the usefulness of this Diploma for the betterment of youth in their countries. I recommend that students who have done this Diploma course strongly support the Commonwealth Youth Programme since it is through them that we have gotten where we are today. There is lot to be done, so off to work I go..... Thanks again CYP for the opportunity to do this course. Continue to let your light shine in the darkness.

**Carol Alma Bodden**



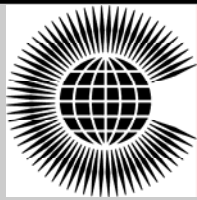
*Honours Graduate  
(2004-2006)  
Grand Cayman*

*(Continued from page 6)*

### **Conflict Resolution for Youth**

The key note address was given by Dr. Kushal, regional Director DAV schools on "India - the melting pot". He discussed about phenomenal impact of globalization advancement in technology. Where are we heading? Is it good time or bad time? Quest for role models, what are the solutions for our conflicts? He called India a Magic pot rather than a melting pot, which is full of surprises. Today's youth knows almost everything. They know the gap between promises and performances. We have to provide them platform to share our wisdom with them. There is need for academicians, Govt. leaders and students to come together for unidirectional approach.

**BY REETA SENAWATBY**



**A NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS AND OTHERS CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME DIPLOMA IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORK**

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## Young People in Mumbai

Dr. Kaila from Mumbai University is looking to fund an important research project. The project is focused on suicide among the young people in Mumbai

Dr Kaila outlines that suicide is an important public health problem in many countries, and is a leading cause of death amongst teenagers and young adults. As the media reports here indicate that the rate of youth suicide in Mumbai is on the rise for various kinds of pressures such as academic pressure, parental pressure, professional pressure, competition etc, and there are no systematic studies in Mumbai on the subject; this is the right time when we need to put efforts to create data to understand nature of suicidal factors among adolescents in schools, and to frame recommendations for policy planners towards suicide prevention among adolescents in Mumbai schools.

If you would like to connect with this work or alternatively think that you may know of an organisation that may be interested in partnering the funding of the research then pls contact Dr Kaila.

Correspondence Address: Residence: Dr HL Kaila, 04, Shiv Sagar Apartments, Bhabola Chulne Road, Vasai Road (West) - 401202, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India



***Take time to regenerate and have a great holiday season, Cheers Robyn***