



# Caribbean YOUTH

Highlighting the projects and programmes of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre



ISSUE 9 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2006



## About us

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre is located in Georgetown, Guyana and is one of four Centres established to serve the member countries of the Commonwealth, spread across the globe. The Caribbean Centre serves the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada. These 18 countries together have a total population of 33.6 million people and a youth population of approximately 5.4 million.

## Inside this Issue

- High level Commonwealth team visit Caribbean Centre
- CYPCC to introduce Enterprise Education in Caribbean schools
- Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living releases training Manual
- New CYPCC publication: 'Building the Future Today'
- St Lucia youth get head start on business and life
- Young Dominican making progress with herbal products
- Sandra Phillip Hodge reflects on CYP Diploma Programme
- BVI Diploma students graduate
- Poetry Corner

# A NEW CYP?



**Dr. Fatiha Serour**  
Director of Youth Affairs,  
CYP Pan-Commonwealth Office

Director of Youth Affairs, Dr. Fatiha Serour and other Secretariat staff in the Pan-Commonwealth Office, Regional Directors and Programme Managers of the four Commonwealth Youth Programme's Regional Centres and Youth Representatives, concluded a successful ten-day Strategic Planning Meeting in India on November 29.

The forum, held at the Asia Centre in Chandigarh, India focused on the challenges faced by young people in the 53 member countries of the Commonwealth and discussed ways of providing opportunities for making positive changes in their lives. It also looked at re-defining CYP's strategic plan following mandates from the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) held in Nassau, The Bahamas in May 2006.

The meeting also analysed existing and emerging trends and how they impact on national development. The participants assessed the ability of CYP to remain relevant and left the

meeting confident that once the strategic plan is realigned with the necessary financial, technical and human resources, one can expect the mainstreaming of CYP's youth development agenda within the Commonwealth.

"We looked at the vision of CYP to determine whether it was consistent with the demands of the global youth development landscape. I think the Chandigarh meeting will be recorded as an historic moment in CYP's history," Regional Director of CYP Caribbean Centre, Mr Henry Charles said on his return to Guyana.

The meeting brainstormed youth development priorities and discussed emerging issues and how best CYP could reposition itself to effectively address these. The key priorities identified were the need for monitoring and evaluation, partnership building, capacity building and training, research, advocacy, HIV/AIDS, professionalisation of youth development work, development of competency standards, tools and development of pilot projects and access to entrepreneurship training opportunities for at-risk youth.

It was agreed that youth mainstreaming and youth empowerment should follow a rights based approach; that youth development should be recognised as national development; and that the youth sector should be recognised as a professional sector.

CYP's mandate, vision and mission statements were reviewed in light of the current global challenges. In addition, the meeting examined

and adjusted the existing goals and objectives of the CYP strategic plan.

"As the title indicated, this meeting is about assessing and deciding on the strategic direction of the CYP programmes, to strengthen its leadership role in youth development and empowerment", the Director and Head of Youth Affairs, Dr. Fatiha Serour said at the beginning of the meeting. "The proceedings have been intense but successful in shaking the zones of comfort we have enjoyed and have helped to move away from the crossroads along the path of youth mainstreaming and youth being the center of decision making."

Mr. Mobafa Baker, Pan-Commonwealth Youth Caucus (PYC) Chairperson who was present at the meeting said, "As a young person participating in the strategic planning meeting has given me a clearer understanding of how CYP works and the ways in which we can propose improvement. This process is critical because it can allow for greater streamlining of the activities of CYP and how it affects us as Regional Youth Caucus representatives."

**Young People !!!**

**Contribute to National Development !!  
Join a Youth Club or Group.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**"We are what we repeatedly do.  
Excellence, then, is not an act,  
but a habit."- Aristotle**

*Season's Greetings  
&  
Best Wishes  
to all our  
Trusted Partners*

*We look forward  
to your  
continued support  
in 2007*

## *How to Contact us*

**Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre**  
Homestretch Avenue, Durban Park,  
Georgetown, Guyana  
Tel: (592) 226-8565/3064/3105  
Fax: (592) 226-831  
Email: [cypcc@cypcaribbean.org](mailto:cypcc@cypcaribbean.org)  
visit our website at  
[www.thecommonwealth.org/cyp](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/cyp)

For more information on how to contribute to this newsletter  
please email Natalie Yearwood  
at [nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org](mailto:nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org)

## CYPCC Positive Living Manual to foster behaviour change



From left are, Ms Natasha Grovesnor, Ms Bonita Harris and Ms Glenyss James.

Another innovative publication recently launched by the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) has received positive reviews from stakeholders across the region and the wider Commonwealth.

The publication entitled 'Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living: A Manual' was launched at a reception on Monday November 6 in Guyana where the CYPCC office is based. The function was attended by several representatives from international organisations such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM).

Director of Youth Affairs in the Commonwealth Secretariat and Head of CYP, Dr Fatiha Serour was also at the launching and endorsed the publication as a key tool in the development of young Commonwealth citizens. Dr Serour, who was on a three-day visit to

Guyana, lauded CYPCC for its continued lead-role in Caribbean youth development. She was accompanied by Head of Finance in the Commonwealth Secretariat, Christopher Luswata and Acting Head of Human Resources, Ms Elaine Lowe.

'Commonwealth Youth For Positive Living: A Manual' was produced with inputs by Ms Bonita Harris; Ms Glenyss James, CYPCC Programme Manager Youth Work, Education and Training and Coordinator of the CYPL programme at CYPCC, Ms Natasha Grovesnor.

The manual covers topics such as effective facilitation, small-group work, activity-based education, public speaking practice, peer counseling, emotional intelligence, understanding behaviour change, monitoring and evaluation, code of ethics, self awareness and tools of discipline.

The manual is just not about HIV/AIDS, it provides clear steps for forming CYPL groups and is intended to be a tool used by youth groups, organisations in youth work, trainers and other stakeholders. It is also suited for effective adult education and training in various aspects of positive living.

CYPCC expects that the manual will be a catalyst for fostering behaviour change among those who will be trained as CYPLs and the young people with whom they will come into contact during outreach activities.



CYP Caribbean and Commonwealth Secretariat staff pose with members of the Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living (CYPL) group in Guyana at the launching of the Training Manual.

# St Lucia youth get a head start on business and life

On Friday November 03, twenty three young people from across Saint Lucia completed a five day workshop sponsored under the Youth and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC).

The Workshop was supported by CYPCC in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs, which has embarked on a national programme to stimulate entrepreneurial activity in at-risk youth. The programme is intended to train community facilitators and advocates who can reach a wide range of at-risk youth in communities across St. Lucia. The trainers should have the capacity to assimilate and use the training material for the benefit of themselves and other at-risk youth.

The programme was coordinated by Programme Manager, Ms Dwynette D. Eversley and introduced participants to areas of personal development, achievement motivation and introduction to entrepreneurship. The highly interactive sessions were facilitated by Ms Marva Bancroft, Consultant Trainer and Dr. Siddhartha Dash, Micro-Enterprise Expert.

Regional Youth Caucus representatives from Grenada, Dominica, Jamaica and St. Lucia were also part of the workshop serving both as trainees, co-facilitators and youth mentors.

The programme describes "at-risk youth" as persons who are victims of social exclusion, unemployed or under-employed.

Participants expressed deep appreciation to CYPCC for the intensive sessions that allowed them to tackle behaviour change and issues of motivation for success in their personal life and business. The importance of setting goals and maintaining a love and passion for doing well were reinforced by three (3) young entrepreneur graduates from the CYPCC sponsored micro-enterprise programme that has been ongoing in St. Lucia since December 2004.

The business operators engaged in a frank exchange with the participants on why they had gone into business, the challenges they

encountered and the positive reinforcement and satisfaction they now feel as micro-business owners. Kennedy "Boots" Samuel, Director of the National Cultural Arts Foundation also spoke to the youth about the importance and richness of the St. Lucia culture and heritage and urged the young people to find innovative business ideas that uniquely promote St. Lucia "kweyol" language and traditions.

Some of the participants chatted with RYCs Norman Gilbert of Grenada, Simone Smith of Jamaica, Carlyn Rolle of Dominica and Jonathan Chalon of Saint Lucia about what the programme meant to them.

### Here are their stories



**Tricia James**

Friendly Tricia James at the tender age of 20 is a youth leader and avid sports woman. She balances her free time volunteering to help the more unfortunate members of her community including persons with disabilities. She also plays netball and volleyball while managing the finances of her youth club in her position as a treasurer.

As a member of the St. Ann's Youth group, Tricia believes that spiritual balance is important in the evolution of the youth of her community and envisions her assisting the group and will be assisting the group to cater to the needs of next generation. She believes that the biggest problem facing young people in her community and the country at large is the lack of a relevant quality education which has direct linkages with the obvious problems of unemployment. Tricia welcomes the idea of Universal Secondary Education but however feels that greater focus should be placed on technical and vocational

learning. After learning of the Youth at Risk and Entrepreneurship Workshop from her Community Development Officer she was particularly interested in the Personal Development Programme and looks forward to acquiring knowledge and skills that would aid her to become a better youth leader. She noted that this was an excellent initiative and more workshops like these are needed island-wide for at-risk youth. Tricia says "the most meaningful activities for me were the self discovery activities and the boat making exercise which highlighted the fact that if you fail to plan then you plan to fail."



**Mikey Bernard**

Meet 22 year old Mikey Bernard from the community of Dennery St. Lucia. Mikey has served in many youth organisations in his community and speaks proudly of his role as chairman of the Dennery Sports Committee. At present he is unemployed but has faith that he will be a very successful young entrepreneur sooner or later, eventually owning his own company. He believes that there are many problems facing young persons today in St. Lucia including unemployment, Crime, HIV/AIDS, Alcohol and Drug abuse, among many other social ills. Mikey believes that Government and CYP can help to address these problems by implementing more skills training workshops in rural communities, which will help with the creation of greater sustainable livelihoods. He sees the need to encourage and train more peer counsellors to help deal with young people who are lost and find hope on the 'block'. "I believe that this workshop has helped me to better understand myself and places me in a better position to help the youth of my community, my eyes are now more open to all the many business opportunities that exist here in St. Lucia," he stated. Mickey's advice to young people is to make use of the many opportunities. He believes that young people are capable of remarkable things.



**Jermaine Dujon**

25 year old Jermaine Dujon is from the community of La Clery, Castries. Jermaine serves in many youth organisations ranging from faith-based to community development. He feels the youth of the country generally lack direction and purpose in their life and this is a result of a lack of proper role models for young people to identify with and look up to. He looks forward to gathering as much information as he can to pass on to members of his organisations and the youth of his community but recognises the challenges of living up to the expectations of others. He feels that there should be more instructional time since this workshop was most pertinent. Jermaine relishes the process of self discovery especially the micro-lab activity.

Jermaine believes that the biggest problem facing the youth of today is unemployment and suggests that there should be more Human Resource Development Centres and more emphasis placed in this area.



**Adelaide Alphonso**

*Cont'd on page 8*

## Stakeholders benefit from Strategic visioning retreat held in BVI



Ms Dwynette D Eversley

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) with support from the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) hosted a Strategic Visioning Retreat from December 7 to 8 for stakeholders involved in youth development work.

Programme Manager responsible for Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods, Ms Dwynette D. Eversley, who facilitated the forum, said that the forum comprised youth representatives, officials from the Ministry of Education and Culture including the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Department of Education; the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare including the Department of Health and Department of Social Development; the National AIDS Programme; the Royal Virgin Islands

Police Force; the Attorney General's Chambers; and Community Based Organisations.

Director of Youth Affairs of the British Virgin Islands, Mr. Robert Chalwell noted that a request was made to CYPCC because he felt that youth development efforts in the BVI were sporadic and therefore needed a consensus vision for moving forward.

According to Ms Eversley, the forum sought to clarify roles, highlight emerging issues, establish cross-cutting areas where resources can be pooled, agree on a common vision and game plan which will include overall objectives, stages and tasks needed to reach the objectives, the success factors, challenges to be overcome and timelines.

"All stakeholders sat down and discussed how youth development impacts their agency. Participants also looked at the environment impacting youth development in the BVI, and challenges faced. They also examined where they want to go and what would be the ideal situation for youth development with the necessary resources and support," Ms Eversley said.

The outcomes included a clear plan of what they would like to achieve in terms of youth development and how they could better pool their resources.

## Region gearing up for Commonwealth Day 2007



Commonwealth Day will be observed on Monday March 12, 2007 by all 53 Commonwealth countries under the theme: *Respecting Difference Promoting Understanding.*

In observance of this yearly event, the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre, based in Guyana, will be spearheading activities there commencing with the traditional inter-faith service, an exhibition for schools and an official reception.

CYPCC member countries will also be organising activities to mark this occasion.

*Caribbean Youth Vibes* welcomes feedback on these activities.

## BVI student reflects on CYP Diploma



Ms Sandra Phillip-Hodge

accommodate working students, the project assignments that involved teamwork, the multiple choice exam papers all made the overall experience not so daunting for us as mature adults who had been out of school for so long. Had it not been for the support and conscientious facilitating of the University of the West Indies and the Commonwealth Youth Programme officials taking this into consideration, the experience could have been less rewarding.

### The Challenges

For me, this was a real test of fortitude, not because of the work itself, but because of the other competing factors in my domestic and working life during the second half of the course, particularly. At one point I was so far behind that I didn't think I could get it all in before the final grading. But as I mentioned at the beginning, the Country Coordinator really pushed for us, to get extensions of deadlines and we couldn't ask for more support than that. I appreciate every opportunity that was extended to me to complete this training and set the exams accordingly.

### In Summary

I regard this course as a must for anyone who aspires to work in any capacity with young people. As Mr. Henry Charles told us on his visit to the BVI a couple of months ago, the youth markets span every aspect of the society and the community in general, and as long as we have to deal with young people in any sphere of commercial activity, whatever our jobs are, as long as we are coming into contact with young people, which is most likely since young people comprise a good portion of the active population, we can benefit from a course such as this.

As a responsible citizen, I value the experience of learning all that the course had to impart, and will hold the material dear to me for reference as needed. I would also like to share the information with as many persons as I can. I feel proud to have been a part of this national effort to improve the human resources to work in areas of youth development in preparing our young people to take their roles and responsibilities in society with a sense of purpose.

This is a well put-together programme and I recommend it to teachers, guidance counselors, after-school programme workers, etc.

### Getting Started

When I heard about the Commonwealth Youth Programme's Diploma Course in Youth Work two years ago, the programme was already in progress and I had to move fast to enroll and catch up with the studies. I must acknowledge the encouragement and assistance I got from the Country Coordinator for the BVI students, Ms. Arlene Smith who assured me it was not too late to join the programme, and remained consistently supportive throughout the duration of the programme.

### The Deal

At first I was very excited to get started and get on with the programme. The module subjects were all interesting and my mind was ready to take it all in. I must admit that I have an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. I like to learn new things. I do believe in life enrichment activities that stimulate the mind and broaden one's perspectives on issues that are of human interest and in this case, national concern.

Being able to practice reflective thinking through the Learning Journals as part of the course work served to connect the experiences of working with young people over the years in various capacities, the issues that society agonize about, the concerns of young people themselves, and the way that governments and other authoritative bodies approach these issues.

The wide scope of the study areas, taking material from all over the Commonwealth world, and the fact that all participating Caribbean countries could interact through the UWIDITE system contributed to the fun element of the learning experience. The structure of the tutoring sessions being flexible to

## CYPCC prepares to introduce Enterprise Education in Caribbean schools

A small Working Group of Directors of Youth and educators met on November 13 and 14 in Roseau, Dominica to discuss the parameters and guidelines for a programme that is geared to develop a culture and appreciation for entrepreneurship in schoolchildren and youth in the Caribbean.

In 2005, the Regional Advisory Board (RAB) meeting of the Commonwealth Caribbean mandated CYPCC to examine how a wider section of youth could become positively motivated and engaged in entrepreneurship as a viable economic activity. It was felt that attention should be paid to reaching youth at an early stage to develop an appreciation of business ownership and to remove certain negative perceptions that youth may have that entrepreneurship is a last resort for under average performers.

The Working Group, coordinated by Programme Manager, Dwynette D. Eversley, was chaired by Jules



From left are Mr Peter St. Jean, Ms Jennifer La Fond, Ms Dwynette Eversley and Mr. Jules Pascal.

Pascal, Director of Youth in Dominica. The participants benefitted from important background information on education for entrepreneurship from Dr. Henry Hinds, of the Educational Reform Unit at the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and from

papers on the practical experiences of entrepreneurship in schools. Mr. Paul Leach, Coordinator of the Schools Programme of the Youth Enterprise Scheme (YES) in Barbados, and Mrs. Shirley Alexander of the Youth Division in Dominica who piloted the 'Catch Them Young' Programme

presented papers.

The Meeting concluded with recommendations for the operating principles and contents of manuals and training tools to be developed for the enterprise awareness and education programme.

The Working Group felt that the programme must show very clearly the face of the Caribbean entrepreneur as farmer, entertainer, hawker, retailer, big businessman etc, as well as use case stories and interactive exercises that depict the vibrancy and versatility of Caribbean entrepreneurship that are part and parcel of Caribbean festivals and heritage. The Working Group also agreed that families must be specially targeted to ensure the success of the programme.

Belize Youth Director, Linsford Castillo, summed up the mood of the group. "Entrepreneurship is a lifestyle culture. Cultural norms are learned at an early age. We have to start reaching the youth as early as possible."

## St. Lucian Political Parties urged to better articulate youth development strategy - CYPCC Regional Director



Mr Henry Charles

Speaking in London following a recent visit to Saint Lucia, Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre described as encouraging the level of youth participation in the recent General Elections campaign in the Eastern Caribbean Island.

According to Mr. Charles, "the fact that so many young persons were involved in the process as candidates, front line activists and supporters, is indeed very encouraging and augurs well for the further advancement of Saint Lucia's democratic process." The Regional Director commented that the involvement of young people

in the electoral process compels political parties to become more creative and cutting edge in campaign style and strategy.

However, he lamented the fact that parties campaigning for the 2006 General Election are insufficiently were consistent and coherent in articulating their respective youth development strategies.

According to him, "while Saint Lucian youth have made great strides in many fields of endeavor and they continue to impact in a very positive manner on the development of their communities and society, there are still many challenges which Government, political parties and civil society must give adequate and appropriate attention to." Some of these he highlighted are: Youth unemployment and underemployment; social exclusion and stereotyping of young people from especially socially challenged communities; the need to reform and upgrade the juvenile justice system including the modernisation of youth detention centres and adoption of internationally acceptable protocols

and policies for rehabilitation of young offenders; the adoption and implementation of international standards and protocols for child protection; the need for appropriate community support systems for at-risk young people; the need to effectively address the incidents of incest and other forms of child abuse; and the need to broaden the scope of existing youth skills development programmes to include non traditional areas such as creative arts, leadership development, social research and community development.

The Regional Director contended that whichever political party forms the next Government in Saint Lucia will be well advised to undertake a number of important measures as a matter of great importance and urgency.

These measures include, the repositioning and upgrading of the Ministry of Youth and other relevant youth development agencies; mainstreaming of youth development issues by establishing youth development focal points within mainstream government Ministries,

departments and agencies; review the existing National Youth Policy and formulation of a National Youth Development Strategic Implementation Plan to operationalise the policy objectives; Engage the relevant Youth Networks and other stakeholders in broad based consultation to redefine the national youth development agenda; the allocation of more resources for youth employment and Entrepreneurship development programmes and projects; the implementation of a comprehensive sports and healthy lifestyles strategy; and the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive ICT strategy to help bridge the youth digital divide, expand access to higher learning opportunities and create greater space and opportunities for skills development training.

### Editor's Note

**CYPCC has since learnt that one of the political parties had launched a comprehensive youth manifesto.**

# High-level Commonwealth team visit Caribbean Centre



Sitting from left to right are, Mr Christopher Luswata, Ms Elaine Lowe, Mr Henry Charles and Dr. Fatiha Serour. Standing behind are staff of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre.

November started on a busy note at the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre with a visit by Director of Youth Affairs in the Commonwealth Secretariat, Dr. Fatiha Serour.

Dr. Serour was accompanied by Ms Elaine Lowe, Acting Head of Human Resources and Mr. Christopher Luswata, Head of Finance.

The visit to the Caribbean Centre in Georgetown, Guyana was the first leg of a tour to the Regional Centres as part of a familiarisation exercise since she took up office in September 4, 2006.

While in Guyana the team met with staff the Caribbean Centre to update them on matters pertaining to the administration of CYP and to listen to staff concerns and suggestions. She



The Hon. Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dr Frank Anthony (centre) is flanked by Ms Elaine Lowe; Mr Henry Charles, Regional Director, CYP Caribbean Centre; Dr Fatiha Serour and Mr Christopher Luswata.

said that she was impressed with the work of the Caribbean Centre noting particularly the heightened public awareness drive across the Caribbean.

Dr. Serour paid a courtesy call on Guyana's Minister of Youth, the Hon Dr. Frank Anthony and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Dr. Rudy Insanally where she exchanged courtesies on behalf of the Commonwealth Secretary General. She briefed Minister Anthony on the progress CYP has been making in the Caribbean especially its impact on young Guyanese in areas of entrepreneurship development; Skills training; HIV/AIDS intervention;

Youth for Positive Living (CYPLs); beneficiaries of the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI); members of youth groups and organisations.

She noted that she will return to the region for continued interaction with staff and other stakeholders on youth development issues. She also give a commitment to further support the government's youth development initiatives during at the Kuru Kuru Skills Training Centre, a youth facility run by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports which teaches young people vocational skills.



Dr Fatiha Serour, Director of Youth Affairs greets Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Rudy Insanally during a courtesy call on him at his office in Guyana. Also in the photo are Regional Director, Mr Henry Charles and Ms Elaine Lowe.

Youth Work Education and Training; and capacity building.

The Director thanked Minister Insanally for the government's support in hosting the Caribbean Centre over the decades and looked forward to strengthening the relationship the parties have enjoyed.

A reception was held in her honour at which two major CYPCC publications were launched – Building the Future Today and A Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living: A Manual. While at the reception Dr. Serour interacted with local officials and counterparts; members of the Commonwealth

The visit concluded with a press briefing where she updated the local media on youth development issues in the Commonwealth, answered queries from journalists and shared her perspectives on the way forward during her tenure.

**NEXT ISSUE**

The next issue of *Caribbean Youth Vibes* will be published in **February 2007**.

We welcome your contributions. Please email them to [nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org](mailto:nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org)

## New CYPCC publication launched

### *Building the Future Today*



economic and socio-political landscape of the Caribbean. It also touches on a number of other issues pertinent to the sustainable development in the region.

The publication includes topics such as effective youth participation, empowering youth to create a drug free and violence free society, a case for a transformational approach to youth development, redefining the youth development agenda, global challenges facing youth in the 21st century, Caribbean Youth Day messages, Commonwealth Day messages, a viewpoint on the students' movement, among other topics.

Commenting on the publication *Building the Future Today*, Mr. Charles said, "my simple expectation is that the publication will inspire others to publish works on youth development issues and that it will help create an awareness of the need for more informed debate on these issues."

The booklet is available on request from the CYPCC at P.O. Box 101063 Durban Park, Georgetown, Guyana or by e-mail at [cypcc@cypcaribbean.org](mailto:cypcc@cypcaribbean.org).

A key publication documenting speeches, statements and papers on youth development issues, by Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC), was officially launched on November 6 in Georgetown, Guyana.

The 72-page booklet entitled 'Building the Future Today' provides an informative insight into the regional youth development landscape, the challenges and issues and provides some pertinent strategies to help redefine and reposition the regional youth development strategy. While it addresses mainly youth development issues, the publication also provides some insight into the general socio-

## RYC Chair conducts training with youth



Participants during a group session.

Twenty six young aspiring entrepreneurs from Grenada's sister islands of Carriacou and petite Martinique were trained in entrepreneurship development at a workshop facilitated by the Regional Youth Caucus Chairman, Mr. Norman Gilbert at the Carriacou Human Resource Centre from November 30 to December 5.

With assistance from the Grenada Youth Enterprise Initiative (GYEI)

Programme, the workshop sought to raise the awareness of entrepreneurship among young people between the ages of 18 and 31 by examining entrepreneurship opportunities as a viable option for employment on the islands.

The workshop came on the heels of a similar forum held in St Lucia which was conducted by the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC). Using the Business Lab Model, the Boat Making Exercise and aspects of Personal Development Training, the participants were divided into three working groups throughout the sessions. Each group was required to develop a business idea to be executed within three days.

The businesses selected and developed by the groups were:

## Roots Herbal Products answering the call



Renauld Deschamps

Herbal products in Roseau, Dominica are making a come back, thanks to the intervention of young entrepreneur, Renauld Deschamps and his *Roots Herbal Products*. Renauld has treatments for all kinds of ailments and a variety of maintenance items for the health conscious. "I decided to become an entrepreneur mainly because my father was self employed...for me, using herbs for medicinal purposes is cultural and I want to preserve the heritage and culture of Dominica," he explained.

Renauld operates his business alone using the training he received from the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre-supported Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT). "I did not take any money from DYBT, I just did the training," he says, adding that it was enlightening and was just right for him because he learnt about the importance of record keeping among other things.

"DYBT is one way in which the government of Dominica is encouraging young people to go into business," Renauld pointed out. His main customers are the health conscious and those looking for an alternative to conventional medicines. Most of the herbs he sells are grown right in Dominica, while some inputs

are acquired from overseas until he gets the technology to make them himself.

If you are suffering from diabetes, high blood pressure, gastric problems, constipation or just need a blood cleanser or a resistance builder then *Roots Herbal Products* is the place to go for your single or combination herbs.

The entrepreneur intends to look at the external market and is examining how he could take full advantage of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. "I would advise entrepreneurs to always be self motivated because despite the challenges you may face, you have to stay on the path you have set for yourself...the best part of being an entrepreneur is knowing that you have independence. The worst part is the responsibility that is placed on you," Renauld said.

Renauld was confident that entrepreneurship can help stem the unemployment situation in Dominica although many young people preferred to go to school and get employment with firms than to start their own businesses. "We live in a country where agriculture is the main resource, but people are still diverting from the land and seeking employment elsewhere," he observed.

He does not put a value on his business since he feels it is priceless but says he is able to meet his monthly financial commitments and save some money. On the question of the Government's support for youth entrepreneurship he feels that the DYBT is a worthwhile intervention. Renauld's next step is to beef up his marketing by placing more advertisements on the radio and distributing flyers and business cards.

**Breakfast Service** - targeting Osprey Customers; **Pastries and Juice** - targeting the market vendors; and a **Cakes and Juice**- targeting the general public.

All of the model companies were able to make a profit which was shared among its members. One company made as much as EC\$288.00 which was commendable given the fact that the business only operated for five hours.

The training sessions provided the participants with information on

Personal and Business Feasibility Study; Market Surveys; Financial Education Focus Group; Marketing for Small Businesses; Business Etiquette; Strategic Planning; Mission and Vision Statements; and Construction of Business Plan.

Following the training sessions, participants were required to submit their business plans for funding under the GYEI Programme. The GYEI programme provides small loans to assist young people to establish businesses.

**Cont'd from page 3**

Adelaide Alphonse is 19 years old and hails from the community of Marigot, St. Lucia. At present she is unemployed but has aspirations to become a Teacher or own her own business some day. She is involved in community work and recognises that there are some factors preventing the community from moving forward. These include a recent increase in gangs, teenage pregnancy, unemployment, drugs and lack of firm parents in households. She strongly believes that there is a great need for skills training for young people. The workshop was an eye opener for her since she was able to find new and exciting ways to improve her facilitation skills. She has now recognised that she needs to be a much stronger person and that there are things about her that she has to work on. As she is called, Adelaide, believes that the most successful people become successful because they first recognise who they are and once that is done they can achieve anything in life.



**Vernon Raymond**

Vernon Raymond is from the community of Soufriere in St. Lucia. At present he is employed with the National Council of Persons with Disabilities. At the workshop he met new people and increased his knowledge of self and enterprise prepared him to move forward and find his purpose in life. He states that the workshop helped him to plan his life and prepare him to become a successful business man. He is also a very active person in community work and believes that this workshop helped him develop his facilitating skills which will assist him to transfer information to his community members.



**Susan Wallace**

Susan Wallace is a mother of five from Ciceron in Saint Lucia. She is concerned about raising her children in a society that is scarred by drugs, crime and violence, because she wants them to be respectable, well-grounded individuals.

She is a volunteer with Ciceron Disaster Preparedness Group and is involved in other community work, including cooking for the elderly at least once per week.

Susan was anxious to be a part of the Workshop because she wants to become an entrepreneur and to learn what is needed to set up, market and finance her business.

Speaking of the usefulness of the Workshop, Susan says the personal development aspects allowed her to reflect on her past experiences and she can see how they have helped her to mature into the individual she is. The session where participants built a collage to show where they'll be in 10 years was most meaningful to her, because it enabled her to start to think of timelines for what she wants to achieve.

Generally, she says the programme will enable her to achieve her goal to become a successful caterer. She will also be able to help members of her community who are in need of help.



**Chalaine Fuligenge**

Chalaine is a 21 years old from Lande Road, Castries. She is involved in netball and other sporting activities within the community and also speaks proudly of her role as vice president of the Key Club; a club geared towards enhancing her community.

Chalaine says that she really enjoyed the workshop especially the visioning and goal setting session. "It gave me a chance to concentrate on how I want my future to be and to gain confidence in myself," Chalaine stated. She is very optimistic about her future and sees what was taught at the workshop guiding her as she progresses in life.

"I really want to go back to my community to help the young people

so they can get off the street and do something more meaningful with themselves. I also want to thank CYP for giving us the opportunity to participate in this workshop for we really learnt a lot," she proclaimed



**Melissa Cadette**

Twenty-nine year old Melissa Cadette is from Fond Assau, St. Lucia. She is employed part time and enjoys caring for her two lovely children. Melissa is heavily involved in community work in the capacity of vice President of the Parent Teacher Association where her children attend school. She is also attached to the Talven Water Catchment Group and other groups in the community.

"I really want to open my own day care centre," she stated. "This workshop helped me to realise that my dreams can be achieved if I work hard and believe in myself." Melissa believes that the organisers should do another workshop like this soon.



**Kavia Mangal**

I came to the workshop to acquire knowledge and skills needed to run my own business," these were the words of 22 year old Kavia Mangal of Bexon, Castries. Kavia comes from a very tranquil and family oriented community although this has begun to change in recent years. There are now concerns about unemployment, Drugs and Alcohol and in some cases various forms of abuse. She believes that the workshop helped to motivate her to turn her hopes and dreams into reality especially after the boat making achievement motivation exercise.

Kavia also believes that the workshop will help her to improve on her facilitation skills as she seeks to help other young persons in her community. She also believes that CYP working with the Government should extend this workshop to young persons in the rural areas of St. Lucia since they don't usually have these opportunities.

## Ten graduate from CYP Diploma course in BVI

Ten students from the British Virgin Islands graduated after completing the Diploma in Youth in Development Work offered by the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the University of the West Indies.

Graduating were Sherwine Anatole, Jeffrey Forbes, Janice George-Harris, Celia Rosalind Georges, Joan Carolyn Johnson, Jacqueline Marie Nibbs, Sandra Vanetta Phillip-Hodge, Simone Simpson-Pope, Sylvester Smith and Henderson Tittle.

Best graduating student Janice George-Harris remarked "For me, the completion of this programme is only the end of the first few miles and the beginning of a thousand other miles that would lead to youth

empowerment in the British Virgin Islands."

Janice noted that the course has highlighted the fact that the youth of the BVI have a bright future and if they are empowered to make positive changes their destiny would be assured. She was particularly impressed with the course material which included conflict resolution, Commonwealth values, environmental awareness, learning processes and gender and development.

The graduation ceremony, held at the Moorings Mariner Inn, was addressed by Mr Armstrong Alexis, CEO of Alexis Consultancy Services and former CYPCC Regional Director; Dr Marcia Potter, Resident

*Cont'd on page 9*

# Another CYPCC intervention produces potential entrepreneurs

Ten more young Guyanese who have dreams of becoming entrepreneurs are closer to realizing those dreams, having been equipped with basic entrepreneurial skills at a recent one-week training workshop organized and funded by the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre.

The training was conducted on behalf of CYPCC by Enterprise Development Consultant, Ms Marva Bancroft. At the end of the exercise Ms Bancroft said she was pleased with the outcome of the workshop because many of participants grasped the concept of entrepreneurship and have begun to examine their business ideas in a critical way.

The young people from Youth Challenge Guyana, were chosen after graduating from an extensive training programme in electrical engineering and technical skills as part of Youth Challenge Guyana's Employability Programme.

"We spent some time focusing on 'who am I' and then we examined various entrepreneurial competencies. Several simulations and games were conducted to help the participants examine themselves in terms of whether or not they are ready for entrepreneurship," Ms Bancroft said.

Reiterating that the sessions were successful, she said that the next move is for the participants to finalise their business plans after completing their market survey. She added that the findings from the initial surveys have proved promising.

"The young people have realised that becoming an entrepreneur is not just an idea but an idea verses opportunity," she pointed out.

**Here are some participants' comments about the workshop:**



**Omkar Ramotar**

**Omkar:** All of us just wanted to do business but we were not aware of the legal requirements in moving

forward. The workshop has provided us with the knowledge of preparing business plans. I am thinking about establishing a **sugarcane juice** business using the marketing strategies taught during the week. It gave us an opportunity to see where we fit in. The best part is we didn't have to pay for the training to learn how to do our business plan. Thanks to the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre for supporting this programme which has helped us greatly with our dreams of becoming entrepreneurs in Guyana.



**Rhesa Pompey**

**Rhesa:** As a child, I always wanted to open my own business but I did not know the full details as to what I needed to do to accomplish that dream. This training workshop has helped us greatly because we learnt how to do a business plan, how to conduct a market research, feasibility studies, bookkeeping and how to be responsible entrepreneurs by acknowledging that we are responsible for our workers' health and safety on the job.

At the moment, I do not have my own business but I am thinking about getting into **computer sales and repairs**. Now that I have a clear idea about how to do the business plan I am looking forward to accessing a loan.



**Sheldon Sauns**

**Sheldon:** Before doing this programme I did not know much

about entrepreneurship even though I knew I wanted to become an entrepreneur. This Commonwealth supported training workshop has taught me what an entrepreneur is and the requirements for becoming a successful one.

I am presently working towards opening my own business and I would advise other young people to do the same because it is very beneficial in creating jobs for ourselves and others. You can be your own boss...you can run your own show and most people like that.

I will be opening an **internet café** with a stationery section in Central Georgetown as soon as my surveys and planning stages are completed around March 2007.



**Andrea Thomas**

**Andrea:** The programme has helped me a lot because prior to the training I was not aware that I had to do a market survey in order to prepare a business plan. The workshop taught me how to tally my accounts, how to manage a business and undertake certain responsibilities to make my business a success.

I would encourage all young people to take the challenge when the opportunity comes along. I want to open an **internet café** then move on to a **mini mart**. Training programmes like these will give a boost to young people who want to become entrepreneurs but have doubts about where to start.

congratulated the graduates for being the first group of BVI students to have completed the CYP/UWI Diploma in Youth in development Work.

"Having a trained cadre of youth workers is quite timely in helping to raise the current profile of the profession by building the needed capacity to initiate and successfully deliver programmes. It also comes at a time when there is a renewed focus on creating an enabling environment for the increased participation of youth in our society," The Honourable Minister added.

CYPCC Regional Director, Mr Henry Charles, in a separate message stated that one of the graduates' primary tasks is to become an advocate for the professionalisation of youth work. This can be accomplished by setting and adhering to acceptable professional standards of practice and ethics.

**Cont'd from page 8**

Tutor, WUI School of Continuing Studies; and Ms Arlene Smith, BVI Country Coordinator. Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Lloyd Black made congratulatory remarks and distributed certificates.

In a message in a booklet prepared by the ceremony, Minister Black



The Hon. Minister Mr Lloyd Black, at left in middle row with graduates. Behind him is Ms Arlene Smith, BVI Country Coordinator for the Diploma Programme.

# The in Year in Photos



## Remarks by UWI/CYP Diploma Coordinator at BVI Graduation



Mr Lincoln Williams  
Tutor/Coordinator,  
Social Welfare Centre, UWI

the establishment of national youth workers associations across the region. Mt charge to you, as newly qualified youth workers, is to use the organisational theories and skills you have learned on the diploma course to establish a British Virgin Islands Association of Youth Workers as quickly as possible.

I am happy that the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) collaborated so closely to make the delivery of this course possible. As Course Director, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all your local tutors; we could not have delivered the course without their contribution. A special thank you is due to Ms Arlene Smith your Country Coordinator, for her hard work and dedication throughout the course, far exceeding the expectations of her contract.

I would also like to recognise the tremendous support received from the School of Continuing Studies University Centre and the Government of the British Virgin Islands. The inter-agency co-operation entailed in the delivery of the Diploma Course is an example of how important common objective can be achieved in their 118 region.

Finally, do not allow the knowledge and skills you have learnt on the Diploma Course to go to waste through inactivity; as it is said "if you don't use it, you'll lose it." Ensure that the core themes of the course namely *enabling, ensuring and empowerment* continue to inform your work with young people. The young people of the BVI have a critical role to play in the development of their society and I am happy that the UWI, in collaboration with CYP, have been able to contribute to the building of BVI's capacity by training a cadre of knowledge and skilled workers to work effectively with them. I wish you all success in your future endeavours.

Dear Graduates,

Let me take the opportunity to congratulate all of you for successfully completing the *Diploma in Youth Development Work*. Having been a part-time student myself, I am fully aware of how difficult it can be to work full-time and study at the same time. It takes determination and a lot of stamina to sustain participation on a course lasting over two years; so well done to all of you for staying the duration. I hope you will be able to draw on this experience when working with young people similarly having to struggle to complete their studies.

Now that you have graduate let me welcome you all to the ranks of 'professional youth workers'. Having immersed yourselves in the distinctive body of knowledge and skills that constitutes the field of youth work practice you have only met the first, necessary, condition of what it is to be a professional. A professional person also undertakes to carry out his or her duties according to an agreed strict code of ethics usually drawn-up and implemented by a legally constituted professional body. Such a body also has the power to de-register a practitioner who breaches the code.

The professionalisation of youth work is at an embryonic stage in the Caribbean and its continued development critically depends on

Commonwealth Day March 12, 2007

## Up coming Events

- National Consultations on Competency Standards for Youth Work – Anguilla, January 17 & 18, 2007
- Development of a National Strategic Plan for the National Youth Council in Montserrat – Montserrat, January 22-26, 2007.
- National Consultations on Competency Standards for Youth Work – Barbados, January 2007
- Training at the Certificate Level of Youth Workers and Coaches – Cayman Islands, 1st Quarter 2007
- National Youth Summit on Youth Participation and Interaction – Turks and Caicos, February 2007
- Behaviour Change and Self Development Training for Peer Educators - Dominica, 1st Quarter
- Commonwealth Day – Monday, March 12, 2007
- Caribbean Regional Youth Caucus Leadership Workshop - March 2007

## National Consultations held in BVI

*Here is an excerpt from remarks made by CYPCC Programme Manager, Youth Work Education and Training, Ms Glenys James.*

In his Memorandum to the 1973 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Ottawa, former Commonwealth Secretary-General, Arnold Smith, said of the establishment of CYP:

*It is deliberately grounded in reality and because of this should provide new hope and reassurance for the young, for those who work with youth and also for Governments committed to the task of nation building and in the process of utilizing to the maximum their greatest resource.*

Thirty three years later a young South African Steve Mokwena stated in *Putting youth Engagement into Practice: A Tool Kit for Action*, written for the 6<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting in Bahamas, May 2006 -

*"...It is clear that for society today to ensure that general standards of living are maintained or improved, young people have to be informed and involved in the every day business of living, whether in the home, community or government. Young people must play a part in ensuring that the sweat and toil of generations past does not vanish in a wave of violent conflict, or is not squandered by bad decisions which do not value our full human and physical environment.*

# P o e t r y C o r n e r

## *The New Land*

by  
*Cyril M.Khanai*

In the darkness tonight  
I suddenly became aware  
Of the land  
As I had never before been aware of it  
Before.  
In the midst of the bundaree bush  
Humble blooms of red flowers  
Sweeten the foul air.  
The grass is growing greener,  
And where prickly thorns blossom  
Creeping pumpkin vines entwine them  
With their strong roots  
To feed the starved  
And clothe the naked  
Of the land.  
May there yet be spring,  
In the light of day,  
From the scorched soil of the heart  
of man,  
The torrent of love  
Strangling every strange weed  
And flooding the new land  
To make it rich  
And fertile and free.

## *Go Spread Wings*

by  
*John Agard*

If I be the rain  
you the earth  
let love be the seed  
and together  
make we give birth  
to a new longing  
for harmony growing  
among all things  
and love go spread wings  
love go spread wings  
If I be a tree  
clinging to parch earth  
this time you will be the rain  
and love the wind  
taking we by the hand  
showing the way  
to new awakenings  
among all things  
and love go spread wings  
love go spread wings

**Any poems  
or short stories?**

**Publish them here!  
You can e-mail them to  
[nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org](mailto:nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org)**

**Give us the Vibes!  
Let us know about youth  
activities and developments  
in your country.**