



Caribbean YOUTH

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



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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.

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CYPCC spearheads Commonwealth Day activities

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) spearheaded Commonwealth Day 2006 activities in Guyana which saw hundreds of schoolchildren participating in an inter-faith service, a rally and exhibitions in the capital Georgetown and in the county of Berbice.

As is customary, the Centre was supported by a planning committee comprising government ministries and agencies, Commonwealth countries with Missions in Guyana, the CARICOM Secretariat, Iwokrama Centre for Rainforest Conservation, St Francis Community Developers, Guyana Council of Churches, the Commonwealth Society of Guyana and UNICEF.

Because of this year's theme 'Health and Vitality: The Commonwealth Challenge', the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the Ministry of Health were brought on board.

Commonwealth Day, on Monday March 13, began with an inter-faith service at the National Cultural Centre which was attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps, government officials, schoolchildren and members of religious organizations. Schoolchildren entered the



Students of Marian Academy perform on stage. auditorium bearing the flags of the Commonwealth of Nations with a drum roll by the Police Military Band.

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Visually impaired steel pan player



Although Robert Weeks is visually impaired and has a physical disability, at age 29 he is already an accomplished steel band player and teacher. He also plays cricket in his spare time. **See story on page 13.**

Coming soon

E-journal set for May launching

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) is set to launch a new quarterly e-journal in May, called **Caribbean Youth**. The publication will provide an avenue for academics and youth work professionals to articulate their views and present research on youth development issues in the Caribbean and the wider Commonwealth.

The articles are intended to inform and influence policy makers on issues and challenges in the current youth landscape with a view to redefining youth development. If you wish to contribute to our quarterly e-journal please contact our Information Officer, Mr. Robert Bazil, on Tel# (592) 226-3064/8565/3105 ext 25 or e-mail: rbazil@cypcaribbean.org.

Editor's Note



Ms Natalie Yearwood

Dear readers,

It gives me great pleasure to send you the first issue of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre's new-look monthly newsletter renamed, *Caribbean Youth Vibes*.

The name *Caribbean Youth Vibes* is a true representation of CYPCC's commitment to youth in the region. It seeks to reflect and highlight current youth issues as they unfold throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean with a view to ensuring decision makers are kept informed about the changing youth landscape in the Caribbean.

Featured are articles on the Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT), a collaborative effort which started some two years ago with CYPCC, through its Youth Enterprise Development (YED) programme, and the Ministry of Education Sports and Youth Affairs of Dominica. The entrepreneurship training programme offered by the DYBT seeks to create employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities for young people challenged by youth poverty.

DYBT recently held a graduation ceremony where 30 aspiring young entrepreneurs who underwent a six-week entrepreneurship training programme were presented with certificates.

Congratulations to those beneficiaries as they strive to become successful entrepreneurs in the Caribbean and further a field.

This issue also includes work in the area of Youth Work Education and Training (YWET) with special focus on Competency Standards for Youth Workers in relation to national consultations and aspects of the Diploma in Youth in Development Work.

To the youths of the Commonwealth Caribbean, we welcome the opportunity to highlight the meaningful contributions you are making towards the development of your societies as you seek to inculcate aspects of the Commonwealth values in your daily endeavours.

Commonwealth Day 2006 is also highlighted with colourful photos.

To the Regional Youth Caucus (RYC), a section of this newsletter is available to you to highlight the projects and programmes you have undertaken in your respective countries.

Please write to us. We welcome your feedback and contributions.

For more information on how to contribute to this newsletter, please write to nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org

CYPCC spearheads ...

From page one

The service featured addresses by Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director, CYPCC; British High Commissioner to Guyana, His Excellency Mr. Stephen Hiscock; and PAHO/WHO Representative, Dr. Bernadette Theodore-Gandi.

Musical renditions were done by students of the Marian Academy School and local singer Miriam Corlette-Williams, while Kiana Wilbury, a student of St. Joseph High School, read the Commonwealth Day message by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Later that evening CYPCC hosted the traditional Commonwealth Day reception in Georgetown. Minister of Education Hon. Dr Dale Bisnauth represented the Government of Guyana. Minister Bisnauth reinforced the commitment of the government to the spirit of the Commonwealth and reflected on the benefits of being part of the 53-member grouping of nations. The Regional Director spoke of the challenges facing Commonwealth citizens and emphasised the need for a rededication to the mission of creating new and more sustainable livelihood for millions of Commonwealth citizens, especially young people.

On Tuesday March 14 an exhibition for schools was held on the lawns of the CYPCC office showcasing the work of members of the Commonwealth.

Meanwhile, Friday March 17 featured an exhibition, poster competition and cultural presentation for schools in Berbice organised by the St Francis Community Developers. The Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports also sponsored a rally for schoolchildren to mark Commonwealth Day.

Here are excerpts from Commonwealth Day remarks

Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre....

This year's theme provides citizens of the Commonwealth with an appropriate platform to campaign and advocate for sustainable livelihood.

It also compels us to re-examine the prevailing social, economic, political and cultural ethos in our societies and to ensure there is equity in the allocation and access to the resources of our countries.

More than that this year's theme presents a compelling *raison d'etre* for governments and citizens of the commonwealth to become enlisted in the global partnership for the eradication of poverty, social and economic injustice, violence, HIV/AIDS and many of the other social challenges that undermines sustainable livelihood.

His Excellency Mr. Stephen Hiscock, British High Commissioner to Guyana.....

In your various school projects in preparing for this year's commemoration of Commonwealth Day some of you will have discovered that over half of the 1.8 billion people of the Commonwealth are under the age of 25. That means that a big responsibility rests with all you young people in the audience



Students carry flags of Commonwealth countries into the auditorium

here today. You will know that the theme for this year's Commonwealth Day celebrations is "Health and Vitality: a Commonwealth Challenge"

It is hard to find vitality when health is weak. We may look to Governments and outside agencies to provide safe drinking water and hospitals with well trained staff, but a lot of the responsibility lies within us. We can eat a bit less junk food; we can try a new sporting activity instead of slumping in front of the TV or computer screen. We can learn all we can about HIV/AIDS and behave responsibly.

Dr. Bernadette Theodore-Gandi, PAHO/WHO Representative.....

In reflecting on the theme for Commonwealth Day in 2006, let us look at the implications of the words. Health and Vitality: A challenge we all know the sayings, your health is your wealth, without health you have nothing, and yet when we are healthy, we take our health for granted. When we are young, we feel that we are invincible and we will always be healthy, strong and capable of anything.

As we get older, reality sets in and we begin to face our frailty and mortality. Let us reflect on health itself. By ensuring that we all have the same understanding of what health is. The World Health Organization defines "health" as a state of complete physical, mental and spiritual well-being and not merely the absence of disease. ■



Students on stage with the flags.

Antigua gets help with Task Force

Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC), Mr. Henry Charles, visited Antigua and Barbuda from January 16 to 20 to assist the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs with the strengthening of its National Task Force on Youth Development.

Mr. Charles met with the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs the Hon. Winston Williams, Permanent Secretary, Ms Agatha Warrington and other officials. The discussions focused on the formulation of a National Youth Policy and the possibility of CYPCC assisting with the revitalization of the National Youth Council on the island.

Minister Williams said that the Ministry is pleased with the prompt response by CYPCC in support of the task force which was set up to address youth development issues. The National Task Force intends to hold consultations with stakeholders before coming up with a draft constitution for the National Youth Council.

Addressing Youth Officers in the Youth Department of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Mr. Charles said "the success of any youth development programme requires an evidence and asset-based approach...youths should not be seen as the problem instead they should be engaged as valuable partners with whom Ministries must collaborate during the planning and implementation phase of their programmes." ■

Directors of Youth to benefit from CYPCC capacity building workshop

Directors of Youth of the Commonwealth Caribbean are expected to benefit from a Development Workshop from April 7 to 11 in Barbados under the theme, 'The Dynamics of Empowerment - Building Leadership and Professionalism for Caribbean Youth Development'

The training workshop comes in the wake of the meeting of the Regional Advisory Board (RAB) which was held in October 2005 in St Kitts and Nevis at which the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) was mandated to support Governments to modernise and re-position Youth Ministries and Departments.

CYPCC is required to provide technical assistance for newly incoming Youth Directors to develop their capacity to manage youth departments; provide support for attachments and internships for Directors of Youth to more established Departments such as Barbados; and provide direction on what could be an ideal model Youth Department or Ministry to support national efforts for integrated and effective youth departments.

The intensive five-day development workshop is also designed to equip Directors of Youth with the management tools and processes that will enable them to focus their Division on aligning resources efficiently in order to meet the needs of external and

internal customers and stakeholders in response to changes in the operating environment.

Directors of Youth will have the opportunity to understand the concept, principles and benefits of the application of strategic planning in a public sector institution; receive hands-on experience with the various components of strategic planning; understand the critical success factors which ought to be considered when applying strategic planning methods; develop a model strategic plan for a Caribbean public sector youth department; identify the resource implications, partnerships and technical support that should be aligned for the effective implementation of the strategic plan; and appreciate from relevant experiences the impact of a strategic management approach on the organisation and individual performance of a youth agency/department.

The opening ceremony will be addressed by CYPCC Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles and officials from the Government of Barbados. Facilitators will include CYPCC Programme Manager, Youth Enterprise Development (YED), Ms Dwynette D. Eversley and others.

Day one, two and part of day four will assist Directors to develop a "strategic plan" for their respective Divisions which they will be required to adapt and flesh out with an operational plan together with their team/staff upon their return. The Centre for Management Development (CMD), University of the West Indies (UWI) will conduct the participatory programme of strategic planning. The Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) will focus on how Youth Departments should be ideally restructured to fit the profiling for the modern public sector.

Day three - Leadership Development will be conducted by Mr. Eddie Corbin, Department of Management, UWI, Cave Hill. This session will provide the opportunity for self-assessment and knowledge to encourage Directors to assess who and where they are as leaders/managers and critically confront some challenges they need to address to be more effective professionally and personally.

Day five - "Practicals" coordinated through the Barbados Youth Department will allow Directors of Youth to witness how programmes are implemented and interlinked in a structured Division, with a view to better defining their own in-country projects.

CYPCC will hold sessions on Days four and five to better align its programmes within the youth development agenda of member countries and identify follow-up support and strategic direction from Directors. ■



Staff of the Ministry of Youth Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda pose with Regional Director of The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre, Mr. Henry Charles (centre). Second from right in front row is Ms. Cleon Athill, Director of Youth.

Entrepreneurs receive awards

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) recently presented incentives in the form of grants for business start-up to six young beneficiaries of the Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT). The Business Plan Innovation Awards (BPIA) are a novel feature of the YED programme at the Caribbean Centre introduced in 2005. Programme Manager Dwynette D. Eversley noted that the cost of setting up micro-businesses in some Commonwealth Caribbean territories can be relatively high and there are the same business ideas competing for the same market space. "CYPCC wanted to achieve two things with the BPIAs," Firstly, we wanted to spur the young entrepreneurs to greater creativity and create a hunger for excellence, and secondly, we wanted to bridge the gap in business financing to improve the process of getting youth businesses going," she explained.

The BPIAs are awarded on the basis of originality in researching, creating and marketing the new business product or service and must demonstrate potential to be a market leader, while being of benefit to the community. The product service must also be sensitive to the local environment and make good use of indigenous products and technology. Judging is conducted by a panel of DYBT trustees with CYPCC input and also takes into consideration the thoroughness of financial projections related to the business product or service and the strategic and active role to be played by the young person in the business.

The six BPI awardees are Rohan Kemai John, Jodie Andrew, Natoia Agustin, Eirdrynton James, Verus Toussaint and Vanessa Lissa Winston. Grants were awarded in the total sum of US 5,000.00

According to DYBT Coordinator Mr. John Roach, the announcement of the BPIAs has emerged as the most highly anticipated feature of the DYBT graduation exercise for young entrepreneurs. ■



Some of the BPI awardees from left are, Eidrington James, Rohan Kemai John, Vanessa Lissa Winston and Natoia Augustine.

DYBT website launched

The work of the Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT) can now be viewed globally following the launching of its website in February.

Visitors to the website, www.dybt.dm, can access the DYBT learning resource centre which provides modules and templates for persons desirous of accessing entrepreneurship materials. Application forms for the DYBT entrepreneurship training programme can also be completed and submitted online by those interested in enrolling in the programme.

Additionally, a photo gallery allows past and present graduates the opportunity to showcase their business on the website as a means of marketing their products. A link to the website of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean

Centre (CYPCC) can also be accessed.

"The launching of the website is very timely because the young entrepreneurs will be able to showcase their products to the wider market with the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). This will create more avenues for them as they seek to develop their business", Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley, CYPCC Programme Manager responsible for Youth Enterprise Development commented. ■

CYPCC reaches indigenous youth

Four indigenous youth from the Carib territory of Batica in Dominica have benefited from the Youth Enterprise Development (YED) programme of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre that is ongoing in Dominica.

The beneficiaries underwent weeks of enterprise, personal development and achievement motivation training to prepare them for life as young entrepreneurs. They have plans to venture into businesses that will service the growing tourist market in their community, Batica, which is a small indigenous community about 25 miles from the capital, Roseau. This predominantly farming community comprises eight villages and has a population of about 3,500 persons.

The proud female beneficiary, Ms. Anabela Charles, noted that Batica is one of the favourite places visited by tourists while in Dominica but there is limited accommodation and entertainment



Proud entrepreneurs display their certificates. available in the community. From the market study conducted as part of her training, she has found that a business venture that could offer tourists

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Bahamas Government committed to CYMM

Plans are moving apace for the hosting of the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) at the Radisson Cable Beach Hotel in Nassau Bahamas from May 23-26, 2006.

The meeting will be preceded by a session with the Regional Youth Caucus and the Regional Advisory Board on May 22.

Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre, Mr Henry Charles, who recently returned from the Bahamas after attending another in a series of planning meetings, is appealing to all Ministers of Youth to attend the forum.

According to Mr Charles, the forum will provide an opportunity for Ministers of youth to articulate their concerns related to youth development and develop a strategic plan for the Commonwealth Youth Programme for the next two years.

While in the Bahamas, the Regional Director met with the local planning committee and visited the various venues suggested for hosting the meeting. ■

RYC gets award nomination

Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) Representative for the Cayman Islands, Kyle McLean, was among five finalists for the coveted Young Caymanian Leadership Awards (YCLA).

Despite not winning the award, Kyle remains focused on the road ahead.

The YCLA award is presented to the youth who contributes in a significant way towards the development of their community and country through volunteer service or participation in local charitable or other service organisation.

The finalists were selected based on their outstanding leadership skills and qualities; strong social conscience; humility; and the ability to uphold the highest moral and ethical standards in their personal,



Kyle McLean

professional and spiritual lives. Academic achievements is important since the demonstrated ability to serve as a role model and to be worthy of emulation by young people is a key factor in the selection process.

Kyle served effectively as a leader on many boards including second Vice President of the Management Council and members of the Housing Assistance Committee of the Civil Service Association; treasurer and board member, Cayman Island crisis center; assistant treasurer and past president, Commonwealth Youth Club, member of the Graduate Advisory Committee in the Cayman Islands. He was recently appointed chairperson for the Grievance Committee for the Cayman Island Service Association.

After completing university, he joined the Portfolio of Finance and Economic Budget and Management Unit of the Cayman Island Government where he served as a Budget Liaison Officer. He was then transferred to the department of tourism and financial administration and more recently was promoted to Deputy Chief Financial Officer in the Ministry of District Administration, Planning, Agriculture and Housing. ■



Participants are involved here in a group activity at the training workshop in Jamaica

Intern benefits from HIV/AIDS workshop

Ms. Natasha Grovesnor, intern coordinating the Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living (CYPL) programme at the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) in Guyana, recently attended a regional 'Training of Trainers' Workshop on HIV/AIDS in Jamaica.

The three-day forum, which concluded on February 18, was organised by the CARICOM Secretariat and sought to introduce the life-skills approach to fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region.

"It was aimed at training persons from member states to use this approach to reach out-of-school, attached and unattached youths, to encourage them to develop responsibility for current behaviour, and make changes," Grovesnor said.

According to her, parenting, violence prevention and planning HIV/AIDS training sessions were key highlights of the event.

It is expected that participants would be better equipped to conduct training sessions in their respective countries; integrate the life-skill approach in programmes and initiatives targeting young people and participate more effectively in national workshops.

During the sessions, the trainees made recommendations for improving the life-skills manual, committed themselves to sensitising their peers about the life-skills approach for educating out-of-school youth and enhanced their capability to integrate the life-skills approach into their work. ■

CYPCC reaches ...

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over-night accommodation and entertainment that reflect the community heritage and spirit will create sustainable jobs for young people in the community.

Willis Joseph, another beneficiary clearly agrees. "Our businesses will be a boost for the community since they will not only create jobs for more youths but will help youths to have the courage to start up their own businesses".

Noting the need to optimise the reach of the Youth Enterprise Development (YED) to marginalized communities, Ms. Dwynette D Eversley, YED Programme Manager said that CYPCC's 2006-2008 focus will also include heritage micro-enterprise development that will benefit

Montserrat completes Competency Standards consultations

Montserrat completed its National Consultations on Competency Standards for Youth Work in January with 25 participants, including representatives of Government Departments, President of the National Youth Council and Regional Youth Caucus Representative being addressed on January 18 by Ms Ann Marie Dewar, Permanent Secretary, Department of Administration.

In her address, Ms Dewar declared that "youth development



Ms Ann Marie Dewar

work is no longer a sideline, something extra-curricular and left totally in the voluntary sector. I believe there is a real issue for Governments and the Public Sector organisations, to mainstream youth development policies and initiatives with as great priority as is given to other environmental concerns."

During the session, CYPCC Programme Manager, Youth Work Education and Training, Ms Glenyss James informed the participants that "youth empowerment must become everybody's business - where governments, NGOs, family, communities, media, educational, health, employment, financial and other institutions act in concert." ■

Successful AMT workshop held

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) conducted a four-day Achievement Motivation Training (AMT) workshop in Guyana from February 13 to 16 which provided another opportunity for young professional trainers and social development advocates from the Caribbean to retool and refine their skills to become more efficient.

AMT is a motivation development programme, which is aimed at helping participants in reinforcing those motives and motives-related behaviour that increase the probability of success in their personal development. These include high need for achievement; independence; influence to others; calculated risk taking; desire for learning from experience and feed-back; sense of efficacy; belief that they can change the environment; dignity for hard work and labour and orientation to plan for action. AMT inputs are aimed at developing a similar discipline of analytical thinking among the participants.

Held under the Youth Enterprise Development (YED) strategic programme area of the CYPCC, the training enabled participants to nurture skills of innovation, risk-taking and decision-making, handling conflicts and other entrepreneurial attitudes and values.

Mr. Henry Charles, CYPCC's Regional Director, challenged Caribbean citizens to re-tool themselves in order to enhance their marketability in the face of the current dynamics of the labour market, emphasising that knowledge and information assume real value when they are shared, disseminated and become communal property.

He urged participants to use the skills and knowledge acquired as "an intervention strategy to assist the victims of social exclusion and to foster an ethos of sustainable livelihood."

CYPCC's Programme Manager responsible for Youth Enterprise Development, **Ms Dwynette D. Eversley**, described the ceremony as an opportunity to evaluate the impact

of the skills transfer over the four-day period and to set some parameters for moving forward. She told the gathering that as part of the Youth Enterprise Development strategic programme area, CYPCC invests significantly in capacity development such as enterprise training, business support and counseling, personal development and now achievement motivation.

Participants were drawn from Guyana, Turks and Caicos Islands, Antigua, Trinidad and Tobago, St Lucia, Cayman Islands, Dominica and St Kitts and Nevis. They were involved in preparing and motivating young persons for success and high



Another group activity.

achievement as part of their ongoing development.

Dr Siddhartha Sankar Dash, a Commonwealth Expert on Micro-Enterprise Development from India was the lead facilitator. Dr Dash was undertaking a six-month attachment at the Dominica Youth Business Trust which is a CYPCC-facilitated youth enterprise project.

Dr Dash is of the view that there is still a lot of work to be done in the Caribbean with respect to entrepreneurial development, adding that with the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), every Caribbean



Participants take part in one of the many activities during the four-day event

country has to strengthen its human and material resources by providing incentives to young people to pursue small and micro-enterprises.

Mr. John Roach, Coordinator of the Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT), who co-facilitated the AMT workshop, commended the way in which the programme was executed, noting that participants were leaving

were asked to take a deeper look at them and we realised that sometimes we are not who we feel we are...some of us were really disturbed when we found out those areas that we were not comfortable with...I am one of those and I can testify that I am leaving here in a much better position to help young people, having been asked to dig deeper and look at who I really am at this point," he remarked

Jackman commended the facilitators noted that "This is something that should be replicated as far as possible...those of us who have access to funding, I would want to suggest that we seriously explore spreading the AMT because this workshop can have a great impact on not only the young people, but the countries where they reside".

Shelda Rockliffe of Globe Trust and Investments Limited of Guyana said that when she first arrived for the sessions she had no particular expectation because that was the first time she was attending a training programme that focused on youth.

"I must say that the Achievement Motivation Training has really assisted me in assessing myself...in the four days I have been here I have rediscovered myself...we pay so much attention to assessing others. When the assessing was turned on me it made me feel as though I was under a microscope. It is hard to be in that position because everybody is looking at you. It is a good thing to be assessed...after these four days I feel empowered and motivated and now I can be of some assistance to youth..."

Shabbir Ali, a representative from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Guyana, said that it was the first time he had attend a workshop involving persons from the wider Caribbean.

better equipped to motivate young entrepreneurs and youth generally.

At the closing ceremony some of the participants shared their views and spoke of how the Achievement Motivation Training changed their lives in a personal way.

Keith Jackman of the Youth Affairs Division of the Ministry of Sports of Trinidad and Tobago felt that the real products that came out of the workshop were the participants, who now feel more motivated and better prepared to assist the young people with whom they work on a daily basis.

"Those of us who had personal issues that were somewhat unresolved

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Thirty set for micro-business

Thirty young Dominican entrepreneurs received certificates at a graduation ceremony in February after completing a four-week Entrepreneurship Development Programme offered by the Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC).

Graduating were: Jodie Andrew, Richard Royson Andrew, Joycelyne Angol, Lornamae Angol, Natoia Augustine, Grell Benjamin, Collins Bruno, Sabrina Carlton, Shantelle Cator, Anabela Charles, Daren Diri Esprit, Jumadine Frederick, Mearl George, Eirdrynton James, Rohan Kemai John, Anita Johnson, Precilla Johnson, Presley Joseph, Willis Joseph, Ursula Lanquedoc, Hermon Lawrence, Joann Lockhart, Kyle Pacquette, Ray Philip, Jason Richards, Lizette St. Ville, Judith Shillingford, Tyron Toulon, Verus Toussaint and Vanessa Lissa Winston.

The graduates underwent an intensive training programme in all aspects of enterprise development which included problem-solving sessions with local business persons as well as the important elements of life skills and achievement motivation training.

Their business projects vary from services to telecommunications to tourism outlets, salons, herbal medicine outlets and internet cafés.

The DYBT programme was introduced to Dominica in 2004 and is based on the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI) model where



Graduates of the DYBT Entrepreneurial Development Programme

micro-credit and training is made available to young people to start-up new businesses or expand existing ones.

The ceremony was addressed by the Honourable Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit; Minister of Education, Sports and Youth Affairs, the Honourable Vince Henderson; CYPCC's Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles and Programme Manager, Youth Enterprise Development, Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley; DYBT's Chairman, Mr. Ronald Jno. Baptiste and Dr Siddhartha Dash, Commonwealth

Services Abroad Programme (CSAP) Specialist in micro-enterprise development.

Prime Minister Skerrit assured the gathering that the Government of Dominica remains committed to the development of young people and will continue to provide the necessary resources and opportunities for them to achieve their goals.

"Young people must pool their resources and work together in a manner that will create opportunities for all Dominicans...the onus is on you to create jobs not only for yourselves, but also for members of

your community," he challenged the young entrepreneurs.

The Prime Minister advised the graduates to look at the big picture of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) when establishing their businesses and marketing their products and services.

CYPCC's Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles, cautioned the graduates that the road to establishing a successful business is not easy. "It requires hard work and many sacrifices...you will be challenged but at the end of the day you must remind yourself that you will succeed regardless", he maintained.

Mr. Ronald Jno. Baptiste, DYBT Chairman urged the graduates to continue to develop themselves as they seek to establish and manage their businesses. "This is just the beginning of your journey to success which requires that you continue to enhance your abilities to become successful entrepreneurs," Mr. Jno. Baptiste said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Siddhartha Dash expressed his appreciation for the level of commitment by the government of Dominica towards youth enterprise development, having trained the fifty-plus young women and men himself. ■

Successful AMT workshop ...

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"I went into the room prepared to write and I was looking to see where the power point projector was as is the case with other workshops, but I realised that it was about discovering myself and where I want to go...It was difficult to deal with some aspects of my past. I give my commitment to CYPCC ,when I go back to my village I will seek to run a motivation workshop for all the heads of department because I

recognize that they really need motivation."

Dr Maxine Parris-Aaron of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) remarked, "All of us are motivated to provide assistance, but then we quickly realise that, to be able to provide that assistance we have to be able to chart a course for ourselves and we have to be able to identify what that course should be. In order to do that, we have to begin to equip ourselves with

where we came from and to look ahead...when you are locked in a room and there is somebody on the other side who you would see in due course...when you are asked to reveal your innermost self to a total stranger, then you realise that life is a serious jigsaw puzzle and in order for you to put those pieces together you have to do some self searching, some introspection and set goals and values for yourself, in order to be able to share anything with anybody." ■

US\$2,000 for Indigenous youth

Young Dominican entrepreneur Jumadine Frederick is set to launch a new tourist rest facility with a Carib museum and refreshment shop/ice cream parlour with a grant of US\$2,000 from the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC).

CYPCC Programme Manager responsible for Youth Enterprise Development (YED), Ms Dwynette

D. Eversley, handed over the sum of US 2,000 to (ag) Youth Development Officer of Dominica, Mr. Colbert Pinard on March 10, 2006.

At the request of the Youth Affairs Division, CYPCC agreed to provide special support to Mr. Jumadine Frederick, who is also a graduate of the enterprise and personal development training offered by the Dominica Youth Business Trust

(DYBT), to enable him to start up an indigenous-based business on the Carib reservation, *Kalinago Local Delight*.

Based on the approved business project, the cost of the business is estimated at EC \$14,000 (US 5,283). The grant will be disbursed by the DYBT to ensure that it is wisely invested in the business venture. DYBT has undertaken to provide loan guarantee funding to meet the outstanding balance of capital outlay for *Kalinago Local Delight*.

CYPCC agreed to the request based on our new focus on Caribbean-heritage businesses as part of the YED programme and because of the special marginalised circumstances of Carib youth in Dominica and in the Region.

In making the presentation, Ms



Jumadine Frederick

Eversley spoke of CYPCC's ongoing commitment and support to Governments and partner agencies for youth enterprise development, and welcomed more innovations from young entrepreneurs that specifically focus on indigenous products and services that directly benefit the relevant community. ■



Two new Ministers of Youth appointed

Two new Ministers of Youth were appointed recently. They are the Honourable Ms. Emmalin Pierre of Grenada and the Honourable Mr. Anthony Wood of Barbados.

Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles and staff of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) wish to congratulate Ministers Pierre and Wood on their appointment. ■

Up-coming Events

- **April 1** - First deadline for submission of projects for Commonwealth Youth Development Awards
- **April 7-11** - Planning and development workshop for Directors of Youth, in Barbados
- **April 24** - Youth Enterprise Development Training of Trainers' workshop in Turks and Caicos Islands.
- **April** - National Consultations on Competency Standards for Youth Work in Grenada, St Lucia and St Vincent
- **May 22-26** - Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in Nassau, Bahamas.
- **August** - Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Exchange, BVI.

Youth businesses reap **Results**

The livelihood of several young Dominicans have been improved following access to micro-credit and entrepreneurial development offered by (DYBT), a collaborative venture by the government of Dominica and CYPCC.

Among the projects that are being run successfully are, an organic vegetable and floral garden owned and operated by Erica Joseph and Linford Bastien. The venture, which was established over a year ago, produces cabbages, lettuce, sweet peppers and tomatoes, as well as decorative and medicinal plants.

“It took a lot of effort and energy to get our green house in the condition it is in presently....our efforts have paid

off...shortly after the local radio station interviewed us, the publicity helped to boost our market share,” Erica said.

“I am very grateful to DYBT for helping me as well as other youth to realise our potential and live our dreams of owning and operating our own businesses,” she added

Erica and Linford are now giving back to their community by collaborating with the Young Farmers Association (YFA) in Dominica in conducting workshops intended to motivate their peers to become successful micro-entrepreneurs.

Another beneficiary of the DYBT programme is Renauld Deschamps. He operates an Alternative Medicine and



Erica Joseph

Massage Parlour in downtown Roseau, which offers a wide range of alternative medicines such as herbal tonics, creams, ointments,

dry herbs and massage oils.

Renauld recalled that it was his previous work experience at a pharmacy that inspired him to enroll in the DYBT training programme. “I saw this as an avenue to own and operate my own business...the knowledge I gained while working was further enhanced with the training I received from the DYBT”

The training has helped him to manage his business successfully and since completing the course, he is constantly re-positioning himself to reach the long-term vision he has for his business.

Another growing venture in Dominica is Mongerie's Mobile, owned by Sharon Mongerie, who sells yogurt, sweets and apples in her community.

Sharon described her market as competitive. “It is very challenging for me because my profit fluctuates when I cannot bring in as much goods, resulting in other suppliers filling the gap. Nevertheless, I like the challenge because it forces me to compete with other suppliers and to raise the standard of my operation.”

She emphasised that the



Renauld Deschamps

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Bahamas observes Commonwealth Day

“Youth are the wealth of the Commonwealth of the Baha-

mas...you are not generation X nor the generation to come...you are not leaders of tomorrow, you are leaders of today and now is the time to show it”, were words of the Chairman of the Youth Ambassadors for Positive Living (YAPL)-Bahamas, Keith Kemp, as he addressed students at the C.C Sweeting Jr. High School, in observance of Commonwealth Day 2006 in Nassau Bahamas.

Keith and junior Youth Ambassador McAlex Cornielle were invited to the Commonwealth Day assembly hosted by the school. The assembly, organized under this year's Commonwealth Day theme, 'Health and Vitality: the Commonwealth Challenge,' focused primarily on the prevention of HIV/AIDS, which was communicated to the audience through drama, song and poetry.

An overview of the Commonwealth was done by displaying the flags of the 53 member countries and providing background information on each country, followed by dramatic presentations composed by the students and teachers as they encouraged the audience to maintain health and vitality.

One of the presentations done by the students told the story of a girl who became infected with HIV who was subsequently neglected by family and friends upon their discovery of her status. Nevertheless, she was able to overcome the discrimination, by using her experience and life to reach other young people. Other presentations focused on reducing stigma and discrimination by educating the students on how to treat persons who are infected with HIV by showing them respect and compassion.

The YAPL Chairman, in his address as guest speaker, reminded the group of over 900 students, that HIV does not have a face and thus it is imperative that they know theirs' and their partner's HIV status. He continued that HIV transcends cultural, racial and economic barriers, which means that anyone who fails to protect themselves is vulnerable to infection.

“In order to maintain health and live lives free of HIV/AIDS you must examine three things about yourselves; your morals; your standards and whether you have respect for yourself,” he noted. “Your

values will help you to deal and overcome peer pressure to engage in sexual activity,” he added.

The Assembly concluded with a mini exhibition on the Commonwealth member countries. ■

Youth ...

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DYBT has given hope to many young people since the biggest obstacle for them was finding the finance to start up their own businesses. “DYBT has helped by providing access to loans at financial institutions that youths would not have otherwise accessed without DYBT's intervention,” Sharon pointed out.

Ms. Florest Cambran-Daniel, who is attached to the DYBT's ongoing mentorship support programme to young entrepreneurs, hopes that more young people would benefit from the experience and urged more financial institutions to come onboard in offering loans to the youth. “I would also like to see a youth representative on the board of Trustees to address and put forward views and perspectives of youth,” she commented.

The DYBT has received technical support from CYPCC for its establishment, training and development of programmes to support the youth of Dominica. It is managed by an interdisciplinary Committee of public, private and civic society partners appointed by the Minister of Youth. The Dominica Youth Council is a serving trustee of the DYBT. ■



Students display flags of Commonwealth countries in observance of Commonwealth Day in Bahamas.



Students perform a dance



Youth magazine to promote Development Opportunities

The Caribbean Centre of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) is working together with the

St. Francis Community Developers in Berbice, Guyana, to produce a youth magazine which will document best

practices in youth development. It is hoped that the magazine will also inspire and help young people and

youth workers to draw lessons from it.

The magazine called 'Making a Difference' will be launched in May. It will include situation analysis, intervention strategies, challenges and successes faced by the St. Francis Community Developers. The magazine will also feature the Caribbean Centre's CYP Youth Enterprise Development programme, which includes the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative, a micro-credit scheme.

Mr. Henry Charles, CYP's Regional Director of the Caribbean Centre, said the magazine will "contribute to the body of knowledge on youth work theory and provide guidelines for successful youth development intervention strategies."

St. Francis Community Developers has been innovative in encouraging and supporting the educational and moral upliftment of residents in targeted local communities. It provides recreational facilities and skills training, and facilitates the establishment of small business ventures to promote self-employment, enterprise and income generation.

St. Francis Community Developers also works to reduce the incidence and impact of drug abuse by emphasising self-worth and self-development among young people. The organisation promotes HIV/AIDS awareness, detection and prevention programmes. It offers counselling and provides a supporting environment for persons infected with HIV/AIDS and their families. It also trains community leaders to deal with social issues.

SVG Youth workers association to be formed



Graduates of the Diploma in Youth in Development Work of St Vincent and the Grenadines have met to discuss the formation of a National Association of Youth Workers.

"The formation of a National Youth Workers Association is of critical importance to the progressive work being done by the CYP to develop youth work as a recognised and accepted academic discipline and profession," Curtis King, a Diploma graduate said recently. ■

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St Lucia, St Vincent report on Diploma progress

The Diploma in Youth in Development Work has been moving apace in the region with recent visits to St. Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines during February and March by Ms. Glenyss James, Programme Manager responsible for Youth Work

Education and Training (YWET).

Ms. James met with Permanent Secretaries, Country Coordinators and Resident Tutors who updated her on progress being made with the current batch of Diploma and Certificate students in their respective countries. Possible Consultations on

Competency Standards was also discussed. Both St. Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines continue to have a very low attrition rate having lost only two students all together since the programme started.

The Country Coordinator of St Lucia Mr. Jim Xavier, noted that while there are no major difficulties with the programme, which he attributes to the fact that most of the students in the current batch are graduates of the CYP certificate course in Youth Work, the students are finding it challenging to balance preparing assignments with other commitments. For many, the Learning Journal is still a challenge, and they expressed the opinion that they are marked down for recording their opinions and views, which makes the exercise a discouraging one. Nonetheless, they are anxiously looking forward to the offering of the Associate Degree Programme.

A meeting with Mrs. James and Permanent Secretary, Mr. Henry Mangal discussed preparations for the

National Consultations to be held in April in St Lucia. Steps for preparing the consultations and a draft programme for the opening ceremony were agreed on.

While in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Mrs. James met with graduates of the Diploma and Certificate programmes. The past graduates expressed their appreciation for the Diploma and Certificate programmes and reminisced of the experiences they shared with other students across the Caribbean while doing the programme. They also expressed a keen interest in perusing higher end qualifications in youth work, but noted that the undergraduate degree would be more marketable than an associate degree.

The discussions also introduced the idea the formation of a Nation Association of Youth Workers, which was well- received by the students who expressed their support and willingness towards seeing the formation of such.

The Country Coordinator and Diploma students were also supportive of the concept of competency standards for professionalizing youth work in the Caribbean.

"I am pleased with the progress of the two countries despite the set backs, which are beyond the control of the tutors and country coordinators, the fact that the attrition rate is low in these countries tell me that they students really appreciate the programme and I can assure them that they have the commitment of CYPCC" Ms. James said. ■

External Regional Moderator visits Montserrat

External Regional Moderator for the 2nd delivery of the Diploma in Youth in Development Work through the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica, Dr Mark Kirton, visited Montserrat from January 19 to 21 to hold discussions with several stakeholders.

According to Dr Kirton, "A strong sense of commitment was observed on the part of the students and the tutors...it was also noted that the tutors often provided personalised instruction to the students outside the scheduled times."

Among the issues raised by students was the timing of the examinations and the need to adjust the schedule so as to provide more time for preparation. ■



External Regional Moderator for the Diploma in Youth in Development Work, Dr Mark Kirton, fifth from left, on a visit to Montserrat, with tutors. At extreme right is Mr James Kirwan, Community Development Officer.

Youth Magazine to promote ...

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"Its efforts are worthy of emulation by community and youth development groups and professionals throughout the Commonwealth," Mr. Charles said. ■

Visually impaired steel pan player

Robert Weeks is visually impaired and has a physical disability, but at age 29 he is already an accomplished steel band player and teacher.

Robert began playing steel band in 1984 at the St. Roses School's Unit for the Blind until 1988 when the band broke up. He then moved on to play with the North Ruimveldt Multilateral School band.

Weeks, who was spotted playing in the Pan Groove Steel Band at the Commonwealth Day exhibition organized in Guyana by the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre, remarked "I wish that other players can enjoy playing the steel pan the way I do."

"When my instructor, Mr. Chapman, has his class upstairs at our centre, I am downstairs training the younger children...now I am responsible for teaching the young ones because our band will be going on the road in two parts on May 1, 2006," Robert said.

Although his left hand is a bit deformed at the wrist, Robert says the only pan he cannot handle well is 'first pan' because the notes are very small.

When he is not playing he is working at the Guyana Association for the Visually Impaired. ■



CYPCC head urges youth development plan

Reprinted from the
Caymanian Compass

Cayman needs a strategic youth development plan in order to streamline programming and provide more effective services for young people.

That was the main message of Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme's Caribbean Centre, following a weeklong visit to the Cayman Islands where he met with various youth organizations, government officials and agencies.

"I could see an opportunity for Cayman to lead the Caribbean," he said after a meeting with media representatives Thursday.

Mr. Charles, who concluded his stay here Friday with a visit to Cayman Brac, said a strategic approach is vital for the country to move forward.

"The issue of youth development is critical to national development," he said.

He praised the work being done

by the country's faith-based organizations as well as the commitment shown by professionals and volunteers working with young people. But he noted a more coordinated approach between all stakeholders from government departments to schools to church groups would improve delivery of youth services and benefit the country.

For example, many schools in the Caribbean region including Cayman have instituted zero tolerance policies to deal with gangs and violence but alternative measures also need to be in place to help stem the problem. He noted the region is lacking in school guidance counsellors to tackle the issue from a prevention standpoint.

Mr. Charles also suggested government look at reorganising structures in place to make the delivery of youth development services more timely and relevant.

He added policymakers need to put actions behind the wellworn words that 'the youth are the leaders of

tomorrow'.

"They are the citizens of today. They have needs and rights as any other citizens as well as responsibilities."

Kyle McLean, the CYPCC's regional youth caucus representative for the Cayman Islands, said young people also need to take action.

"The youth need to get on board. We need to make sure that we get out there and make our voices heard."

Katherine Whittaker, Deputy Director of the Department of Youth and Sports, encouraged young people to step forward, noting Mr. Charles' visit helped spur interest and involvement.

"It has been a very, very productive week indeed."

Established in 1973, the Commonwealth Youth Programme is an intergovernmental agency set up to address social, educational and economic needs of young people across the Commonwealth.

The CYP Caribbean Centre is headquartered in Georgetown, Guyana. ■

Highlights of Commonwealth Day



Highlights... *cont'd*

