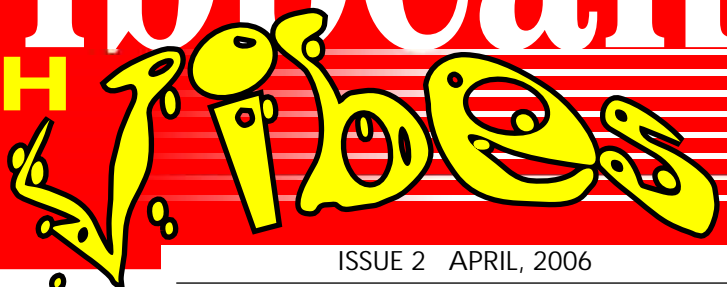




Caribbean YOUTH

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



ISSUE 2 APRIL, 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.

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Packed agenda for CYMM 2006 ... current youth development issues to be reviewed

Global youth development is expected to be examined as the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) gets underway in Nassau, the Bahamas from May 22 to 26.

Delegates from across the Commonwealth will review the current strategies being used to foster youth development and make suggestions to more effectively mainstream youth development with

young people actively taking part in the process.

A number of Commonwealth youth will represent their peers at the forum in their capacities as Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) representatives thus ensuring that youths are a key part of the policy and strategic implementation.

The meeting will also address a range of issues such as HIV/AIDS,

crime, poverty, youth unemployment, the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), education and other issues that member countries have identified for renewed focus.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) would like to wish all delegates success in their deliberations.

Directors of Youth upbeat following key training workshop

Directors of Youth from across the Commonwealth Caribbean are upbeat about youth development in the region after concluding a five-day Strategic Planning and Leadership Development Workshop from April

7-11 at the Royal Barbados Beach Club.

Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC), Mr. Henry Charles, in his address at the

opening emphasised that, "Strategic planning and leadership development are critical to youth development in the region.

"The vision and goal of this forum is to empower you to implement more strategic and participatory approaches to youth development in the Caribbean." Mr. Charles said.

"Strategic planning must be aligned to the broader national development goals as well as a clearly articulated youth main streaming approach in its operationalisation...it must have appropriate built-in implementation mechanisms to ensure that policies are transformed into action," he emphasised.

Mr. Charles also urged Directors to set definable and attainable goals and objectives when planning and implementing programmes. According to him, this can be done by setting precise performance indicators and credible evaluation strategies.

The Honourable Mr. Anthony Wood, Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports of Barbados, in his



A cross-section of participants at the workshop.

(Continued on page 2)

Editorial

Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting 2006

Issues concerning the livelihood and development of young people from across the Commonwealth will be the focus of the Sixth Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting billed for May 22 to 26 in Nassau, the Bahamas.

The forum, to be held under the theme, 'Youth Empowerment for the Eradication of Poverty, Crime and HIV/AIDS', will convene at a time when member countries of the Commonwealth are faced with prevailing youth challenges such as the impact of crime, violence, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and other social ills which continue to take a toll on the youth landscape in the Commonwealth.

CYMM will provide member countries with an ideal opportunity to assess and discuss youth development issues by developing new strategies through the sharing of ideas critical to youth development in the Commonwealth.

Youth representatives and youth leaders will have an excellent opportunity to rub shoulders with various Ministers and other technocrats to discuss issues such as, 'Young People and the Digital Divide', poverty, education, HIV/AIDS and youth empowerment.

It is our hope that the meeting will conclude with a more progressive youth development strategy for the benefit of all Commonwealth member countries. These strategies should speak to creating opportunities and greater involvement of youth in meaningful discussions and decision making at both the national and international levels; mitigate or reduce the impact of issues affecting youth; and encourage continuous networking among countries to address issues challenging youth development in the Commonwealth.

CYPCC wishes all delegates a successful CYMM 2006.

opening remarks said "if national and Caribbean development is our goal in the region, then youth development is an important precondition to the achievement of that goal." Minister Wood reiterated the need for youth participation and called for the

assistance and other inputs by CYPCC.

At the end of the workshop some Directors of Youth commented on the successful engagement. Here is what they had to say.

Ms Sonia Skellekie – Anguilla



Participants listen intently during a session

support of major institutions in the public and private sectors, to answer the call for the continued viability of suitable youth development programmes in the Commonwealth.

The workshop provided the opportunity for Directors of Youth to discuss organisational missions and mandates; assess organisational success and success of previous strategies; establish performance targets and indicators; develop strategies; present and discuss implementation plans; and share understanding of opportunities and challenges of programme implementation.

An entire day was devoted to helping Directors of Youth to develop their leadership skills. These sessions, which were conducted by University of the West Indies (UWI) lecturer, Mr. Eddie Corbin, helped Directors to erode barriers of misconception by helping them to get to know more about each other; explore and examine profiles of leaders by examining challenges and imperatives; building self awareness and evaluation of one's leadership styles and competencies that are required for each individual for further development.

On the final day of the workshop participants shared their understanding of challenges of programme implementation and identified areas for possible technical

things streamlined and moving again. I am also pleased with the networking because I was able to learn from counties such as Barbados, Belize and Jamaica and I drew from their experiences. Overall the workshop was very informative...I am now in a better position to market the programmes of the Youth Affairs Division of Anguilla, thanks to CYPCC.

Mr. Andreason Ahyoung – Trinidad and Tobago

This workshop was very useful in exposing me to skills, techniques and methodology in formulating and writing a mission statement for my ministry. I am now in a better position to assist with project planning and implementation thanks to my participation in the sessions. This event was indeed very timely for Directors of Youth as we seek to address youth issues in the region.

Mr. Carlos Williams - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

I found the forum to be very timely in exposing us to strategic planning. What I liked most about it was the fact that Directors came together so that there was a regional perspective as to how we should move forward in planning and strategising. The need to work together was emphasised because it was seen as an important step towards regional integration.



A session in progress.

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CYP and COL to collaborate on YWET strengthening

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) have commenced a series of discussions aimed at collaboration on a range of areas to enhance the delivery of distance education in the region.

Regional Director, Mr Henry Charles, Programme Manager, Ms Glenyss James and Ms Cristal de Saldanha of the Pan Commonwealth Office, travelled to Vancouver, Canada for a two-day meeting with COL officials from March 28 to 29.

Representing COL at the meeting were Sir John Daniel, President & CEO; Dr. Krishna Alluri, Education Specialist Food Security and Environment; Ms. Lydia Meister, Programme Coordinator; Dr Asha Kanwar, Vice President; Maureen Cureton, an external consultant and Helena Fehr and Ms. Helen Lentell.

Among the key issues discussed were, building capacity for distance and adult education providers at the national level; copyright, licensing and sale of CYPCC training modules and ownership of the Diploma programme; and possible collaboration on programmes that relate to gender and sustainable livelihoods.

COL has agreed in principle to provide assistance in capacity building for distance and adult

education providers at the national level, in particular tutor training.

CYPCC was provided with valuable advice on developing options for existing and new partner Universities and Community Colleges including use of CYP materials, sources for further advice on copyright and other related issues



Ms Cristal de Saldanha

and access to CYP materials on the world wide web.

Agreement was reached on a number of areas such as



With Mr. Henry Charles, is Dr. Krishna Alluri, Education Specialist Food Security and Environment on the left and Sir John Daniel, President & CEO of COL on the right.

opportunities for CYP and COL to collaborate on programmes relating to sustainable livelihoods for young people in rural areas; collaboration with CYP on its Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods (YESL) programme, particularly through projects in ICT, eco-tourism and food gardens; commissioning research and developing short, certificated training courses for cruise companies on eco-tourism; training young people as tourist guides and operators for eco-tourism and heritage tourism; re-igniting the Certificate broiler production programme with the University of Guyana and other potential training agencies in the Caribbean region; reaching young people through their interest areas (sports, music, dance) to undertake training and skills building for young people on sustainable livelihoods; using the Diploma module 11 (Enterprise and Economic Development), module 13 (Environment and Sustainable Livelihoods) to run short skills training programmes; utilising communication networks for training young people, particularly young women in rural communities; advising banks and micro-credit institutions on how to cut transactional costs, provide links to markets, facilitate insurance and enhance loan repayments from rural lenders; and providing opportunities for farmers to use ODL and ICT to facilitate learning.

The issue of boys under achievement was also seen as an area of concern and COL has commissioned research on this and will share its report with CYPCC. It was agreed that CYPCC will give feedback and be involved in virtual discussions in the run up to the COL

Forum and the 16th Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers.

In the area of curriculum/module writing and Instructional Design of the Certificate programme, COL has agreed in principle to advise and assist in building the capacity of new and existing partners (Universities and Community Colleges) within the region to offer Youth Work Development programmes at Levels 1 -5 and to provide assistance to the CYPCC/Heart Trust NTA, Jamaica partnership in the development of curriculum and instructional design for the certificate programme.

COL is also to facilitate linkages with the Association for Commonwealth Universities, University Grants Commission, Virtual University among others.

CYP will also receive assistance from COL in the area of training of quality assurance assessors. CYPCC was encouraged to document its regional Quality Assurance mechanisms/model and partnerships with governments and other stakeholders in the professionalising of youth work as a best practice.

COL has scheduled a forum in Jamaica from October 30 to November 6, 2006 and consequently, the opportunity exists for CYPCC to exhibit YWET materials, Competency Standards through joint workshops, panel discussions and/or seminars with COL and HEART Trust/NCTVET.

Possible panel discussion topics to be explored at the forum are, Good Governance; Youth Participation in Governance; Civic issues, HIV/AIDS and the Youth Ambassadors for Positive Living programme; and other regional initiatives on young people and HIV/AIDS; COL's Boys



From left are CYPCC Programme Manager, Ms Glenyss James; Maureen Cureton, an external consultant, and Lydia Meister, Programme Coordinator.

Barbados Youth Enterprise Scheme making in-roads

The Barbados Youth Enterprise Scheme (YES) was all young Lana Whittaker needed to realize her dream of owning and operating her own catering business.

A passion for culinary delicacies runs in Lana's family, so it was no surprise when she decided to build her career around the kitchen. Lana nurtured her passion by enrolling at the Hospitality Institute of Barbados and subsequently spent eight years gaining experience in the Hotel Industry.

Ebony Blossom Caterers is in its second year of business catering to all occasions such as birthdays, weddings, office parties and bridal showers. Lana says, you name it, she can make it.

"I felt it was necessary for me to be in an environment where I could better express my talent," she said.

While searching for a job,

friends and family who were impressed with her creations encouraged her to start her own catering business. It wasn't until she saw the advertisement for the YES programme that she decided to give it a try.

Lana's story speaks for many others who like her had a hunger for personal development and saw the Youth Enterprise Scheme as an opportunity to own and operate their own businesses.

For Lana the combination of her love for catering along with the encouragement she received from others propelled her to success.

Today Lana is passing on her culinary skills by teaching others to make a wide array of Caribbean and international gourmet, cakes and pastries. As she looks to the future, Lana intends to open a chain of patisseries across the island.



Lana Whittaker serves one of her dishes to Mr. Jules Pascal, Director of Youth, Dominica, at the recently held Directors of Youth Workshop in Barbados.

Cameraman praises Youth Development Programme



Renaldo Sergeant

Twenty year old freelance cameraman Renaldo Sergeant credits his success to the Barbados Youth Development Programme (YDP) for helping him to get back on track and to acquire adequate training in video production.

Renaldo signed up in 2004 for the intensive six-week Digital Media Filming Project (DMFP) which included editing, directing, filming and producing.

Apart from being versed in video production, Sergeant is a skilled carpenter. After completing high school he tried his hands at a number of jobs such as teaching, electrical installation, sales clerk and mini mart operator.

Employed as a freelance cameraman at the Caribbean

Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), Renaldo says, "My job is very demanding and challenging but I like it. I recommend the YDP to youths in Barbados...look what I have achieved, they can achieve their dreams too".

He noted that during his training with the Youth Development Programme he was always enthusiastic, punctual and willing to learn. Renaldo feels that these attributes helped him to gain employment at CBC.

When he is not filming he operates a small business named C&R Auto Electricians in which he partners with a friend. The business provides installations and other auto electrical work to vehicles.

Youth discuss sustainable development

- Jahisiah Benoit of the Commonwealth of Dominica



Jahisiah Benoit

On behalf of the youth of Dominica, I would like to bring greetings to my fellow youth across the Commonwealth. I am Jahisiah Benoit, Commonwealth Youth Caucus representative of Dominica. The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) has afforded many Dominican youths including myself the opportunity to become advocates and agents of Youth Development.

In Dominica the issues of unemployment, HIV/AIDS, Youth Participation and Environmental Degradation require urgent attention. More importantly, the involvement of youth in decision making and policy development at all levels is necessary to achieve our sustainable development.

The Dominican Working Group of the Caribbean Commonwealth Youth Caucus comprises several dynamic youth leaders who network with numerous national and regional NGOs.

Currently the working group is focusing on programme development whilst performing the necessary sensitization of the Commonwealth Youth Programme. Upcoming activities include an essay competition, school out-reach programme, and a series of debates. We will be sure to update our fellow

youth as these events unfold and welcome ideas and best practices from all our colleagues within the CYP network.

Most recently I had the privilege of representing CYPCC at the Second International Youth Leadership Training and Study Session for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, which was held in Barbados from April 3 to 7, 2006.

The main objectives of the conference were firstly to provide training for youth leaders to better equip them to bring true development to youth in their respective countries. The second and equally important objective was to promote cooperation and establish networking links amongst youth of the South-South Region i.e. youth of Developing countries.

This conference was organized by four main agencies, namely the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP), International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

Although each participant represented their respective nations and organizations, they were united in their positions on issues affecting youth within the South-South region.

Delegates came from countries throughout the South-South Region such as Dominica, Bahamas, Nigeria, St. Lucia, Antigua, Belize, Zimbabwe and Suriname.

This conference was very beneficial because it facilitated the establishment of new networking opportunities for RYC's throughout the region.

We must embrace this opportunity to work together sharing resources with the CYEN chapters. Environmental Degradation is an

issue that no young person from the Caribbean can take for granted. Delegates of the various CYEN chapters expressed great interest in working with CYP and more specifically there respective Commonwealth Youth Caucus representatives. It is now up to us to use the skills we have obtained and network to develop projects and programmes to ensure that the youth take positive action for environmental management and sustainable development.

St Lucia government announces youth initiatives

The Government of St Lucia has announced several new initiatives which are expected to impact positively on the island's youth population.

Prime Minister the Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony made the disclosure in his budget address titled 'From Recovery to Expansion' on April 25, stating that this financial year, the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) will receive a total allocation of EC\$3.72 million.

Approximately EC\$2 million of this amount will be made available for NSDC's programme of skills training. This will supplement the amount allocated to the Youth Apprenticeship Programme. The NSDC has been authorised to target immediately some 700 persons for training in a variety of skills.

Declaring that unemployment hurts primarily our young people, Prime Minister Anthony has requested the NSDC to target communities where unemployment is particularly high. "We must continue our

efforts to re-educate, re-tool and re-skill our young people," he stated.

The Government has identified several areas of training for young St. Lucians such as, office administration, cosmetology, bar tending and waiting, housekeeping, Electrical installation, masonry and steel bending, plumbing, early childhood development (preschool), tiling, tour guiding, sewing and drapery design, introduction to graphic design, electronic appliance repair and data entry.

Trainees will be provided with a stipend to encourage their attendance in all training workshops. The stipends will be paid at a flat rate of EC\$400 per trainee, per month, inclusive of meal allowances.

The National Skills Development Centre will also initiate a programme of training for young persons in the eastern and southern parts of the island for future employment in the Tourism and Hospitality Sectors. They will initially target some 350 persons.

CYPCC helping St Kitts and Nevis with YED programme

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) and the Ministry of Education Youth, Social and Community Development and Gender Affairs of St. Kitts and Nevis have begun talks on setting up a Youth Enterprise Development programme for out-of-school and marginalized youth.

CYPCC Programme Manager responsible for Youth Enterprise Development (YED), Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley, travelled to St Kitts and Nevis recently to meet with a number of officials including Director of Youth, Mr. Geoffrey Hanley.

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has embarked on a policy of social and economic transformation which, among other things, involves empowering young people as a means of enhancing competitiveness and sustaining growth and development over the long-term.

In May 2005, St Kitts and Nevis' Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth, Social and Community Development and Gender Affairs, the Honorable Mr. Sam Condor, said that the programme depended on a collaborative approach with agencies such as CYPCC in nurturing young people more effectively and in steering them towards more wholesome and productive endeavours.

According to Ms Eversley, St Kitts is interested in using the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI) model, particularly to provide employment for young people who are coming out of school and skills institutions.

During the two days of the visit, Ms Eversley stressed that the CYCI is a holistic programme that provides overall development support for young people. "It is more than providing loans for young people to start up their businesses," she said.

The St Kitts government has identified eligible beneficiaries. A sustainable development study done some time ago indicated that young boys between the ages of 15 and 24 from certain communities, who are especially vulnerable and marginalized, could be targeted.

"What we wanted to create at the level of CYPCC was ownership for the programme...they had to determine who would be the lead architect, the lead agency or the implementing agency or what other non-government organizations, ministries, departments, media or private sector would support the model," Ms Eversley said.

Stating that CYPCC usually provides a loan guarantee fund, she explained that the next stage of the discussion with the Permanent Secretary is the capitalization of the programme.



Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley

While CYPCC is in negotiation with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Ministry of Youth Affairs has undertaken to pursue local sources of funding to capitalize the programme. "We are really trying to fast-forward the process so that the programme can be launched around July," Ms Eversley added.

As part of the orientation, CYPCC provided snapshots of peculiarities of the YED programme in St Lucia, Guyana and Dominica to illustrate how countries have adapted it to their own circumstances.

As a special feature, St Kitts is looking at an alternative of giving individual loans, forming youth cooperatives and have acknowledged that they would need more support, apart from small

business management, personal development and Achievement Motivation Training, in teaching young people how to set up cooperatives.

This is one of the several policies and steps which the government is taking to mitigate the effects of the closure of the sugar industry, particularly with respect to youth and families affected.

"The Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative enabled the establishment of 7,800 more youth-oriented Businesses" ...The Commonwealth Secretary General's Report 2005

Excerpt from speech by the Honourable Mr. Anthony Wood, Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports of Barbados at the recent Training Workshop for Directors of Youth

...The Imperative for Youth Development and what is required to support it. I have deliberately chosen this topic as a practical examination of the issue of the youth development rather than to engage in the kind of vague philosophizing that may sound great, but does not really advance our understanding of the issue nor help us in creating a serious response. For one thing, the Commonwealth Youth Programme has organised this as a workshop, not a conference. But even so, neither the client group under consideration here (i.e. the youth) nor the serious



Hon. Minister Mr Anthony Wood

challenges which they face allow us the luxury of spending time on empty philosophizing.

So in keeping with the serious, practical and purposive agenda of this Workshop, I want to do two basic things in my address:

First of all I will seek to establish that there is an imperative for youth development that we can no longer ignore - that is, if we ever could. And that this imperative is moral, social, cultural, economic and political.

Secondly, I want to examine the practical conditions that are necessary to support this youth development imperative in terms of a Youth Department - conditions that I imagine will form a substantial part of our deliberations over the next couple of days.

So first of all let me deal with

what I consider to be the imperative for youth development. By imperative I mean that we no longer have choices. If national development and in fact, Caribbean development, is our goal in the region, then youth development is an important precondition for the achievement of that goal.

And whether your framework of analysis is cultural, social, economic or political the fact remains that the national and regional development will not be realised unless and until the development of our young people is addressed.

So there is a cultural imperative for youth development - for how can national development proceed unless underpinned and guided by the collective norms and values of the society...

Youth trained in Social Cohesion

CYPCC and CIDA hold exploratory talks



Norman Gilbert

Five Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) representatives from the Caribbean have benefitted from a Youth Leaders Training Workshop organised by UNDP's Guyana Social Cohesion Programme (GSCP) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF). The resident workshop took place at Lake Mainstay in Essequibo, Guyana from April 22 to 28.

The forum was part of an ongoing programme to bring youth leaders from Guyana together to develop knowledge and enlightenment of the elements necessary for responsible governance. The week-long workshop offered theoretical and highly interactive sessions on conflict transformation; rights and responsibilities of leaders; understanding of self; strategic planning; group dynamics; understanding community; proposal formulation; and networking and



Kareem Payne

leadership.

According to Programme Manager, Ms Dwynette D. Eversley, the RYCs had an excellent opportunity to network with community youth leaders in Guyana. At the end of the workshop they were more sensitive to issues facing youth in Guyana.

"The process of bonding and networking is critical for youth leaders who share a common small space of the Caribbean. We welcome activities such as this one for our youth leaders because the business of learning how to effectively manage national priorities within the regional good as a whole cannot start too soon," she said.



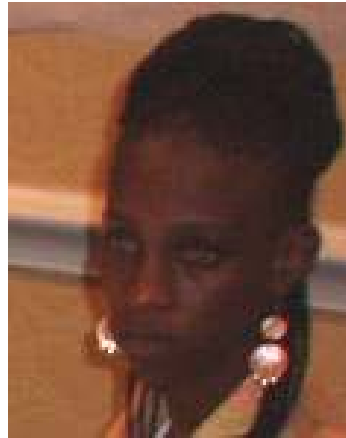
Jason Rubaine

Representing the Regional Youth Caucus were Norman Gilbert, of Grenada who is also the RYC Coordinator for the Commonwealth Caribbean; Kareem Payne of Antigua and Barbuda; Keria Hughes of Anguilla; Jason Rubaine of the British Virgin Islands and Simone Smith of Jamaica.

Gilbert, commenting on the workshop said, "the forum helped us as RYCs to better relate to the needs of our communities through conflict transformation and mobilizing community support". He also urged participants not to be complacent upon their return to their respective communities. "You should have a passion for youth work...it is not always easy... along the way you will be faced with challenges and opposition but your resolve should be one of perseverance," he advised.

When the Regional Youth Caucus last met in October 2005, they developed a series of mini-projects that they will target grass

roots communities and help to develop positive involvement. As such, the workshop provided the RYCs with an excellent opportunity to be better equipped in handling and solving problems as they begin to plan and execute projects in their respective communities and countries.



Keria Hughes

"The process of bonding and networking is critical for youth leaders who share a common small space of the Caribbean."



Simone Smith

Regional Director of the CYPCC, Mr. Henry Charles met with officials of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in April to explore ways in which the two organisations can collaborate on youth development in the Caribbean.

During a visit to Ottawa, Canada, Mr. Charles paid a courtesy call on Chief of Operations Jamaica/Guyana Programme, Commonwealth Caribbean and Suriname Americas Branch, Mr. Andre St-Pierre and Analyst Commonwealth Caribbean Programme Americas Branch, Mr. Stephan Paape.

Mr Charles updated CIDA on the work of the CYPCC and indicated a willingness to work with them on programmes that are geared towards youth development.

"One of our principles is to work in collaboration with other development agencies so that we can maximise the available resources," Mr. Charles said.

CIDA was pleased with the information provided to them about CYP and the work it does. One official commented that whilst they might have heard about CYP they were not formally briefed about what it does and the extent of work done since the organisation has been in existence.

Mr. Charles said that CIDA has expressed a willingness to consider CYPCC as a working partner so that ideas can be shared as new programmes evolve relevant to youth development in the Caribbean.

It is expected that the two agencies will build and strengthen their relationship as time progresses.

CYPCC seeks to develop partnerships with reputable international development agencies to help advance the idea of youth development in the Caribbean.

CYPCC and Caribbean Star in Youth Exchange talks

Programme Manager responsible for coordinating the Caribbean Youth Exchange, Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley recently met with Mr. Shane Pilgrim, Regional Sales Manager, Southern Caribbean, for Caribbean Star Airlines to discuss the airline's support for the staging of the 2006 Commonwealth Youth Exchange in the British Virgin Islands.

After explaining the purpose of the Youth Exchange to Mr. Pilgrim, Ms. Eversley summarised that it is one way of ensuring that young people between the ages of 17 to 24 from all Commonwealth Caribbean countries really have a chance to integrate, learn about and from each other, and form strong bonds and networks that will continue to serve in good stead when they are at the helm of regional governance in the next

few years.

Mr. Pilgrim indicated that Caribbean Star would be happy to partner with CYPCC to facilitate the movement of young people to the Youth Exchange as this was in keeping with the philosophy of Caribbean Star and Caribbean Sun. He noted that the companies' business is moving people through the length and breadth of the Caribbean, adding that he is personally very keen on initiatives such as the Youth Exchange, that offer the opportunity for young people to communicate better with their peers across the Region.

"I am very excited for Caribbean Star to participate in such a venture since it furthers more inter-regional cohesion between the peoples of the various territories, I look forward to working with CYP not just for 2006 but for a number of years to come," Mr. Pilgrim said.



Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley and Mr. Shane Pilgrim.

CYPL outreach targets Mercy Wings Vocational School

The Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living (CYPL) group will be undertaking a three-month HIV/AIDS peer-education training exercise in positive living for students of the Mercy Wings Vocational School in Guyana. The beneficiary group, comprising about 25 students who are pursuing courses ranging from child-care to woodworking, was chosen as part of the CYPL outreach programme for 2006. To date two sessions have been conducted at the school - March 21 and 28. The training team comprised Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) Intern, Natasha Grovesnor and CYPL Odinga McDonald.

The sessions focused on educating the students on basic HIV/AIDS information including definitions and explanations of each letter of certain acronyms used in HIV/AIDS education, on how the infection is transmitted and what are the methods of prevention.

It was clear that the group was knowledgeable about this. However, it was apparent that even with the information in hand, many of them are still making irresponsible choices. This discovery came in wake of a question posed to the group to ascertain their risk level. The question

was "what have you done to protect yourself since you first heard about HIV/AIDS?" This exercise revealed that many persons were knowledgeable, but were not putting the information into use.

This shifted the focus of the day's session from positive living to addressing behaviour change and reducing risky behavioural practices. However, to offer an intervention that is not superficial, the team probed into some of the answers to have a better understanding of the students and therefore to better comprehend the reasons for the choices some of them were making. "We have discovered problems of a poor self-image, lack of parental guidance, an attitude of selling self short and under achievement," Ms Grovesnor observed.

The team realized that before any significant and sustained behaviour change can take place, these underlying issues which continue to manifest themselves in sexual acts which are deemed high risk behaviour, must be dealt with.

Views were addressed with the intention of helping the members of the group to confront and understand self and move forward as productive young men and women in society.



Students of Mercy Wings Vocational School pose with some of the facilitators after an outreach exercise.

Young banker advises on financial security

Financial Security is defined as being able to contentedly achieve all of your financial goals. As is in every other process for the achievement of goals in life, there is a course or pathway designated for the successful attainment of that aspiration. Many pathways or advice can be given but very few are truly successful. Along with taking a course to accomplish that goal there must be a purpose - a 'how to' plan of taking this course. Therefore, where there is a successful purpose and plan projected, there will be profitable benefits.

When it comes to investing, young people should know certain basics. It is imperative that they be aware and optimistic about their financial future and where it is heading. Young People should be more intact with their future by securing it with a purpose and plan. If this is to be done, then more people would have more control of their life instead of having money without knowing what to do with it. This, however, may lead to bankruptcy.

One of the first things a youth should do when aspiring to achieve financial security is to set out a purpose. This purpose includes the goals and objectives that you have in mind. For most people, the purpose of investing is to create an income for you to fruitfully accomplish your future goals. Also, to provide for family, develop yourself personally and professionally and assist others. Other general purposes for investing are to maximize one's wealth, maximize the return on investing, to diversify one's income stream and to spread/share the risk ratio into various portfolios.

Once you have designated or decided on your purpose for investing, you should sit down and thoroughly think through how you plan on going about putting your money into investments. In other words, 'how to' plan is your next thing you should decide on.

A key to investing is to have the discipline or the will to stick to your plan that you decide on.

For example, if your original plan was to set aside one hundred dollars every month for the next twenty years, then you should stick to that plan. Yes you may walk around in the

Tyson McKenzie, Regional Youth Caucus Representative of the Bahamas, who works with a leading bank shares tips with young people on how to secure financial well-being.



Tyson McKenzie

mall and see those flashy new Versace jeans that you think you must have or that new play station game that just came out. However, giving into temptation would not at the least bit help you to accomplish what you want at the end of the day.

Where you decide to invest most of your money depends on the amount of risk you are prepared to take. Risk and return goes hand in hand. There are many ways or places a young person can invest their money. For example, there are savings accounts, fixed term deposits, bonds, real estate (rental income), and shares and stocks. Additional investment opportunities that are more complex are debt issued by the various Governments (treasury bills & registered stock), annuities and mutual funds.

However, your decision on what you decide to invest in depends on the type of goal you personally have.

That is long term or short term goals. If your goal is more long term than short, you may want to think about investing in stocks, real estate and mutual funds. The younger you are, the more time you have to accept risks while you see your money and profits flourish. On the other hand, if you are looking into a more short term goal, you may want to think about savings accounts or fixed term deposits.

To explain one of each, for example something what young

people are more familiar with is Real Estate for a long term goal. Investment in a building which

produces rental income is a very traditional investment option. This well-known aim of this type of investment is to benefit from income which is higher than the mortgage payment (if any) and to eventually sell the building at a higher value than it was originally bought for.

A very well-known and familiar short term goal investment plan is savings accounts and fixed deposits. Money that is saved in a bank that you plan to withdraw immediately or after a fixed period e.g. 3, 6, or 12 months represents the deposit base for bank loans i.e. the bank borrows your money and lends it back to you or to another person or a business. The returns for this plan are limited to interest payments/rates.

Lastly, your benefits of an investment plan. Each investment plan has a different return rate and

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CYPCC bids Linden farewell



Programme Manager, Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley presents a token of appreciation to Linden on behalf of the staff of CYPCC.

The CYPCC team recently said farewell to its Driver/Office Assistant Mr. Linden Fraser who resigned to pursue other goals overseas.

Most of our official visitors on arrival in Guyana would have met

and interacted with Linden during their stay.

All of us at CYPCC wish to convey our appreciation to Linden for his dedicated years of service. Bon Voyage Linden!

Regional Director calls for Transformational approach to youth development

Regional Director of the CYP Caribbean Centre, Mr. Henry Charles, addressing Directors of Youth in the Caribbean at a Leadership Development Workshop held recently at the Royal Barbados Beach Club, has called for a transformational approach to youth development in the region.

Mr. Charles noted that within recent times there has been growing panic among the citizenry regarding the negative manifestation of youth socialization and development in the region. "These concerns and opinions have dominated newspaper columns, various 'Talk Shows' and other popular programmes. Consequently, governments are under increasing pressure to formulate and implement effective strategies to address these issues," he said.

"The truth is that youth development in the Caribbean has assumed a far more complex and challenging character over the last two decades. Prevailing economic, social and political ethos, as well as encroaching cultural influences have indeed influenced institutions such as the family, church, schools and other civic organisations" Mr. Charles noted.

He proposed that a paradigm shift from a social welfarist to transformational approach is long overdue. The Regional Director advocated that it first demands an evidence-based approach to youth development work. "We must abandon the idea of our youth work strategies being informed mainly by myth, emotions and

stereotyping...our strategies should be based upon empirical data and truth," He maintained.

"We must adopt a rights based approach to youth development. We must disabuse our minds of the idea that young people are problems to be addressed and instead embrace the fact that they, like any other citizen, have a right to sustainable livelihoods and that they also have a right to advocate their needs, desires, fears and opinions and further must be accorded appropriate and adequate opportunities to fulfill their needs and aspirations", he emphasised.

The Regional Director called for the support of governments and youth development agencies to adopt a strategic approach to youth development. This he said requires

the formulation of a strategic youth development plan which includes a clear vision, definable and attainable goals and objectives, precise performance indicators and credible evaluation strategies. "The adoption and implementation of a strategic youth development plan will among other things facilitate a credible process of consultation and inclusion, as the success of the plan will be to a large extent dependent on the genuine participation of youth and other relevant stakeholders. Further, it is imperative that appropriate implementation mechanisms be adopted to ensure policies are transformed into action," he added.

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Underachievement programme and other regional initiatives on addressing the social exclusion of young males COL will continue to pursue opportunities for COL/CYPCC partnership on youth internships.

Meanwhile, Mr. Charles commented, "COL is well known for the work that they have done. Distance learning has been around for a long time but in some quarters you still have an elitist view to education and persons still have their hesitations about it".

COL has been mandated by the Commonwealth Governments to work in the area of distance education because it is recognized that given the underdeveloped nature of many of the Commonwealth Countries, the way that you can intensify and increase access to higher education for especially the marginalized, a large percentage of which are young people, is by distance learning.

COL's mandate has been to see how best they could change the public's perception in terms of distance education and to ensure that distance education is one that is credible and of a high quality.

..... Young banker advises on financial Security

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the amount of years you plan on investing for. For example, if you invest \$50.00 for five years with a return rate of 4%, at the end you'll profit or earn about \$3,320. If you decide that you can contribute more a month for example \$100.00 for the same time frame but with a return rate of 8% instead of 4% you will have \$7,341 at the end of the term. In this case, the more money you originally invest will allow you to have more money at the end of your specified time period.

However, if you want to look at it in another way, for example, how much you intend to or want to have at the end of a specific time period, the

following would be a good example. If you want to have or plan to have at least \$100,000 at the end of ten years, you will have to contribute at least \$670.00 a month. That is however, with a return rate of 4% again. If it's with a return rate of 8% it'll be \$602.00 a month, 10% will be \$487.00 a month. The higher the rate of return, the lower you will have to contribute a month.

A young investor must remember to make sure you seek investment advice. Even though sometimes being young you may want to go with your gut on choosing which share or which real estate you may want to invest in

that may not always be a wise decision. That company you may decide to invest your money in may look good from the outside but always research or get advice on that company.

Also, you must remember as a young person to never forget to donate to charities or organizations that may need help. It is always good to give back to your community. There is a saying that goes, "No one would remember the Good Samaritan if he had only good intentions, he had money as well and helped others". You can be successful but also remember to help others.

Anguilla to get help with capacity building

Anguilla is to receive help in capacity building from the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) following a visit by Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles.

Mr. Charles visited Anguilla in April to meet with the Honourable Mr. Evans M. Rogers, Minister of Social Development; Mr. Rodney Rey, Permanent Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Social Development.

He also took the opportunity to find out what were some of the more pressing issues facing youth development in Anguilla and examined ways in which the Caribbean Centre can assist in the way forward.

CYPCC has promised to help Anguilla with capacity building and a leadership development programme for youth leaders including members of the steering committee of the

National Youth Council.

“We will help facilitate the development of a National Strategic Plan for Youth Development,” the Regional Director said.

Additionally, it was agreed that the newly appointed Director of Youth will be attached to another Department of Youth in the region as a means of gaining valuable experience and observing how other departments are run.

CYPCC also received the commitment of Anguilla’s Public Administration Department to host and participate in national consultations on competency standards for youth workers.

The issues discussed are expected to materialise within the next three months.

While in Antigua Mr. Charles also met with members of the Interim Committee of the National Youth Council and visited youth projects.



Mr. Henry Charles at left with the Honourable Minister of Social Development, Mr. Evans M. Rogers, centre, and Permanent Secretary, Mr. Rodney Rey.

CYPCC providing further Technical Support to Antigua’s National Task Force

CYPCC Programme Manager, Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley, will make a follow up visit to Antigua and Barbuda in June to facilitate the strategic planning process and provide technical support to the National Task Force on Youth Development in fleshing out an action plan for the National Youth Policy, currently in draft stage. The National Youth Policy document deals with a range of issues such as education, gender, health, employment, crime and violence and youth participation.

The National Task Force which comprises about 35 persons representing several stakeholders formulated a draft National Youth Policy document which is currently being refined.

“What they want to do now is interrogate the draft National Youth Policy by having key stakeholders work together in groups to examine the way forward for Antiguan youth,” Ms Eversley pointed out.

According to Ms. Eversley, youth

development in Antigua was divided among several ministries. She added that they want to have objectives aimed at achieving targets, time frames, resource implications and partnerships that must be forged in order to meet the targets.

While the youth policy is in draft stage, the Task Force wants to receive buy-in to have it develop from a flat policy document to an action plan with full time lines, which is what CYPCC has been promoting.

“We don’t want it to be a dry thing on a shelf...we must ensure that the policy outlines have smart objectives which must clearly underline who is responsible and what are the resources and institutional linkages that are required,” the Programme Manager explained.

Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles, recently visited Antigua to address the final phase of the National Consultation process currently being managed by the National Task Force on Youth Development in Antigua.



Employees of the Ministry of Youth Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda pose with Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles.

Youth participation critical

-RYCs

The Regional Youth Caucus of the Commonwealth Caribbean is looking forward to the upcoming Sixth Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) that is carded to take place in Bahamas from May 22nd 2006 and May 26th 2006. This meeting will unite Ministers responsible for youth in the Commonwealth and Regional Youth representatives appointed or elected by youth within their Region.

In a joint statement issued, the Caribbean Caucus is confident that several matters which affect the lives of young people will be properly aired at 6 CYMM. According to the statement, "6 CYMM is a unique and rare opportunity for some of the brightest youth minds across the Commonwealth to come together and have our say in determining our present and our future – we can shape and be a part of policies and decisions to positively impact the lives of the

millions of young people across the Commonwealth who cannot all be part of 6 CYMM. We have a tremendous responsibility to be faithful and robust in our representation - our voices really matter".

CYMM 2006 will provide fora for direct communication and discussion between Ministers and youth on issues relating to poverty, crime and HIV and AIDS, as well as provide an opportunity from the Youth Caucus to learn from the collective experience of other youth from the wider Commonwealth. Some other issues central to youth empowerment which will be addressed include youth global challenges, the strengthening of youth governance networks and the implementation of national youth policy.

The Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Caucus is made up of 18

countries and chaired by Norman Gilbert of Grenada. Since its appointment in October 2005, this Caucus has been actively working on the development of youth in the Caribbean, with a focus on innovation, enterprise and collaborative youth projects. The Caucus has been particularly focused on advocacy work with young people in the community to create greater synergy on how CYP programmes can better impact their lives and circumstances.

"In all our work, we try to encourage young people to participate fully, because we preach that active citizenship is underpinned by the involvement of young people at all levels of decision making. We know that the Commonwealth champions the rights-based approach to the development and their programmes call for youth empowerment, youth

participation and the mainstreaming of youth in all development. We want these principles to be alive and well in practice. We want to encourage all Governments and CYP to support the participation of youth representatives to this critical meeting."

The RYCs network regularly and have become increasingly concerned by the number of their colleagues who are being left out of CYMM delegations because of a lack of funding. "Funds are scare all around. But the fundamental issue may be the need for a more equitable distribution of resources to youth development."

The RYC also noted that in instances when the elected representatives were unable to attend, alternatives should be provided of a calibre that would continue to add youth-focused value to the important work ahead.

More photos from the Col visit

