



Caribbean YOUTH

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



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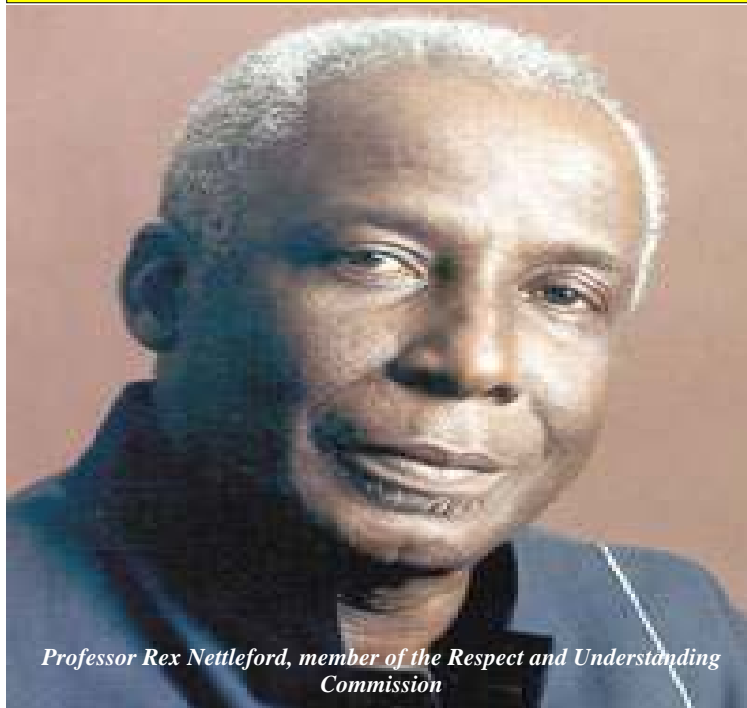
About us

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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CYP hosts major Regional Consultation on Respect and Understanding



Professor Rex Nettleford, member of the Respect and Understanding Commission

“...multilateral consultations and interactions can be of pervasive importance and usefulness in determining appropriate means for pursuing peace and security.”
(Civil Paths to Peace: Report of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding)

In response to the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government mandate, the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) has embarked on a series of regional consultations to review the recommendations of 'Civil Paths to Peace' the report of the

Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding. So far two such consultations have been held in the Africa and Asian regions respectively.

The Caribbean region's consultation took place from

November 19-21 at the Royal St. Kitts Hotel in Baserterre, St Kitts and was attended by CYP Regional Youth Caucus, Directors of Youth, civil society organizations representing vulnerable communities, inter religious organizations, indigenous communities, representative UN agencies and other inter governmental organizations.

Participants reviewed and interrogated the finding of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding, identified and examined regional manifestations of factors contributing to conflict. They also explored existing best practices for the promotion of peaceful communities, identified and developed strategies and actions to support the implementation of the Respect and Understanding mandate.

The consultation also focused particular attention on the role of young people in the building of peaceful communities and the general promotion of respect and understanding.

In response to the 2005 Commonwealth Heads of Government mandate, the Secretary General in 2006 established a high level commission on Respect and Understanding under the chairmanship of Noble Laureate Professor Amartya Sen. Other

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News Flash

Barbados

Barbados will be hosting its National Youth Awards Ceremony on November 22.

The National Youth Consultations was held on November 15.

CYP

The Pan-Commonwealth Youth Programme Office and the Regional Centres are currently in the process of finalizing their Strategic Plan for the period 2009 - 2010.

CYPCC to assist St Lucia with peace building initiative



The Hon. Lenard Montoute, Minister responsible for Youth Affairs in St Lucia.

The Government of Saint Lucia is set to receive assistance from the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) in developing a 'Youth and Crime Initiative', following a request by newly appointed Minister of Home Affairs and National Security, Senator the Honourable Guy Mayers.

CYPCC Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles, following up on the request met recently with some officials of the Government of Saint Lucia, including Permanent Secretary in the National Security Ministry, Ms. Marie Ange-Leonard, Director of Youth Affairs Ms. Fortuna Belrose and representatives of the Police, Correctional and Probationary Services.

The meeting agreed that a draft project proposal for the youth and crime initiative, which was circulated by CYP, would be further reviewed and amended wherever necessary. The proposal will be developed and submitted to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) for possible funding.

The successful implementation of

the Youth and Crime Initiative will allow CYP the opportunity to roll out some of the recommendations and initiatives already agreed to as part of CYPCC's contribution to peace building initiatives discussed and ratified at the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) in Sri Lanka in April.

Youth Ministers at CYMM had benefited from regional case studies, which outlined a clear role for young people in building peace and in mitigating the recourse to conflict, crime and violence.

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...regional consultation

distinguish members of the commission were John Alderdice, Kwame Anthony Appiah, Adrienne Clarkson, Noeleen Heyzer, Kamal Hossain, Elaine Sihoatani Howard, Wangari Muta Maathai, Ralston Nettleford, Joan Rwabyomere and Lucy Turnbal.

The Commission's mandate was to explore initiatives to promote mutual understanding and respect throughout the Commonwealth.

**Are you a graduate of the Commonwealth
Diploma in Youth Development Work?**

Please email: rbazil@cypcaribbean.org or nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org

CYP, new Grenada government pursue closer collaboration



**The Honourable Tillman Thomas,
Prime Minister of Grenada**

The newly elected Government of Grenada is seeking closer ties with the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) and has indicated a willingness to continue working with CYP on the development of a National Youth Development Strategy, Regional Director, Mr Henry Charles has disclosed.

The Regional Director travelled to Grenada during September 7 and 12 where he met with the Honourable Prime Minister, Tillman Thomas; Minister of Youth Empowerment, Culture and Sports, the Honourable

Patrick Simmons; Minister of Health, the Honourable Karl Hood; and the Permanent Secretaries responsible for Education and Social Services.

The meetings were intended to update the new government and other high ranking officials on the mandates of the CYP and its work in the region, to get a sense of what new direction they will be taking in relation to youth development in Grenada, and what help would be requested of CYPCC.

The officials acknowledged the need to identify and define priority areas for youth development and

requested CYPCC's support towards this initiative.

Mr. Charles also met with the general staff of the Ministry of Youth Empowerment and representatives of various youth organizations on their perception of the youth development landscape in Grenada.

He later visited youth businesses such as hair salons and agricultural enterprises that were developed a few years ago in a programme between CYP and the Government of Grenada.

New Belize government and CYP reaffirm strategic partnership



CYPCC Regional Director, Mr Henry Charles, at right, presents the PAYE and other CYPCC publications to the Honourable Marcel Cardona, Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture of Belize. Looking on are Mr Dwight Tillett, CEO of the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture and Ms Dianne Finnegan, Director of Youth For the Future (YFF).

The Government of Belize has reaffirmed its support for the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC).

This was reported by Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles who

wrapped up a successful visit to Belize from September 22 to 27.

While in Belize, Mr. Charles updated the new government on the work of CYPCC and restated its commitment to support the

repositioning and strengthening of the youth development initiatives of the member country.

The Regional Director met with the Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture, Hon. Marcel Cardona; Minister of Education, Hon. Patrick Faber; the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ministry of Youth, Mr. Dwight Tillett; and the Director of the Youth For the Future (YFF), Ms. Dianne Finnegan and staff, among others.

Meetings were also held with persons responsible for various youth projects, officials from the Violence Reduction Unit, the 4H Club; the Cadet Corps; the Yabra Community Policing Group; and the Conscious Youth Development Project. Mr Charles also met the CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the CEO and Director of the Ministry of Public Service; the University of Belize; Galen University; and the Resident Tutor from the University of the West Indies (UWI) Extra Mural Department.

The Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture expressed support for the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) and identified it as an excellent tool for guiding the country's youth development strategy.

At the Ministry of Youth, Mr. Charles, the CEO and the Director of Youth reviewed the major youth development challenges in Belize and looked at current initiatives that the country has undertaken to address them.

Discussions also focused on CYPCC providing technical assistance for the development of a National Youth Development Strategy and other projects.

Mr. Charles updated the Universities on the work done so far to professionalize youth work in the Caribbean and the development of the related competency standards.

The University of Belize, the Galen University and the University of the West Indies (UWI) Extra Mural Department have agreed to participate in CYP's youth development training courses while the Public Service Ministry will be reviewing the status of persons who are in possession of the CYP Diploma in Youth Development Work with a view to ensuring upward mobility in the Public Service.

Young People !!!

**Contribute to National
Development.
Join a youth club or group.**

Thirty five young people benefit from Participatory Research Training

Thirty five young people representing a number of youth groups benefited from a five-day training workshop on Participatory Learning Techniques as part of a collaborative effort between the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs of Barbados.

The session, which were held at the Savannah Hotel in Hastings, Barbados from July 21 to 25, sought to equip participants with the necessary skills and competencies to engage their peers in various communities about issues affecting them in preparation for a six-week National Youth Consultation exercise.

During the opening ceremony of the training workshop, Director of Youth Mr. Hally Haynes commended the young people for their voluntary participation and encouraged them to continue supporting the national youth consultations process.

The five-day session was facilitated by Dr Heather Ricketts and Mr. Sean Ffrench lecturers of the faculty of Social Sciences of the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.

Dr Ricketts introduced participants to the Social Assessment (SA) Methodology and the meaning of and steps of social assessment. She also discussed Setting the Development Agenda for



Photos showing participants engaged in classroom and field work sessions using the Participatory Research techniques.

Participation and The critique of economic analysis.

While Mr. Ffrench walked the group through the Participatory Learning and Action Tools such as the Listing and Ranking, Pair-wise Ranking, Objective Tree, Problem Tree and the Venn Diagram tool, more commonly called "Roti" Diagram because it resembles the popular food.

On Thursday July 24, the young people converged on the community of Haynesville in groups to test the

knowledge gained and to apply the learning and action tools to the issues affecting young people in Haynesville.

On the following day the workshop concluded with a debriefing session which allowed participants in each group to present their findings for feedback and discussion.

The consensus building and airing of youth concerns at community levels during the six

weeks national consultations will inform the formulation of a new National Youth Policy for Barbados.

According to CYPCC Programme Manager, Dwynette Eversley, who initiated the partnership with UWI, Mona for capacity strengthening on PLA, the intervention in Barbados is part of CYP's overall objective to train young people in applied and participatory research methods in order to contribute over time to the development of a credible evidenced-based framework for youth development.

Recalling the level of enthusiasm for the training, Ms Eversley added, the PLA is engaging and readily embraced by young people. "A lot of credit must go to Heather and Sean for making the experience so alive and exciting and relevant."

"By 2012, we expect to have young people in all member countries trained in applied and participatory research and we also expect to see a significant amount of returns in the informed youth research projects being generated as a result of the work in grass roots and other communities that are sometimes left out of planning because of fear, stereotyping or other misconceptions. This is really going to be a major catalyst for the type of youth-driven development that we have always advocated."

CYP Officials wrap-up Jamaica visit

A Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) delegation comprising Director of Youth Affairs in the Commonwealth Secretariat, Dr Fatiha Serour; Regional Director of the CYP Caribbean Centre, Mr. Henry Charles and Programme Manager, Ms Dwynette Eversley, recently wrapped up a successful visit to Jamaica at the invitation of the Government.

The visit was intended to assess the youth development landscape in Jamaica and identify possible areas

of cooperation between CYP and the Government on youth development strategies; to advocate for the concept of youth mainstreaming and to share information on the work of CYP.

Dr Fatiha also delivered a Youth Development lecture focusing on the issue of youth mainstreaming. The forum drew an overwhelming response from youth development stakeholders from across Jamaica.

The CYP team hosted a one-day workshop on youth mainstreaming for senior officials and key staff of

the Ministry of Information, Culture, Youth and Sports.

Key meetings were held with senior government officials including Minister of Information, Culture, Youth and Sports, the Honourable, Ms Olivia Grange; Minister of Finance and Public Service; the Honourable Audley Shaw; Minister of Industry, Commerce and Investment, the Honourable Karl Samuda and Minister of Labour and Social Security, the Honourable Pearnel Charles.

Meetings were also held with youth representatives, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs).

The visit was coordinated by the National Centre for Youth Development and the main focus was to strengthen the partnership between CYP and the Government of Jamaica and also to provide an opportunity to share information with key government officials.

CYP Caribbean Centre commended



Director of Youth Affairs, Mr Hally Haynes the Honourable Dr Esther Byer-Suckoo Minister responsible for Youth Affairs of Barbados and Regional Youth Caucus representative Corey Worrell at the launching of the National Consultations in Barbados.

The work of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) continues to receive commendation, the most recent being from the Barbados Minister of Youth

Speaking at the launch of the CYPCC supported training workshop in Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) research tools and techniques, the Minister of Youth Affairs, Dr the Honourable Esther Byer-Suckoo said, "The Ministry of Youth Affairs is extremely pleased to partner with CYPCC on such an important and necessary venture especially since the CYP has been playing an integral role in the development of young people in the region."

Director of Youth Affairs, Mr Hally Haynes also expressed his gratitude to CYPCC for the work they have been doing and their continued support to the Ministry of Youth Affairs.

Meanwhile, Regional Youth Caucus Representative of Barbados

Corey Worrell in his address took time out to introduce the participants to the work of the CYP in the region.

CYP has been partnering with UWI Mona to develop regional capacity for PLA since February of this year beginning with an intense working seminar for Directors of Youth. PLA techniques include "a family of approaches and methods to enable ...people to share, enhance and analyse their knowledge of life and conditions, to plan and to act".

PLA started out as a tool aimed at facilitating learning but over time has evolved into a tool for analysis, planning, action, monitoring and evaluation.

It has become strongly associated with rural development and empowerment because it relies on visual tools that community members can readily embrace and use to arrive at a common understanding and weighting of issues affecting them, and to propose solutions to these issues.

CYPCC broadens its base in the Americas

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) has sought to further solidify its role as one of the premiere youth development agencies in the Americas with its recent participation in the Regional Meeting on Youth Networks and Policies held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from October 15 to 19.

CYPCC was represented by Regional Director Mr Henry Charles who took the opportunity to present an overview of the youth development landscape in the English Speaking Caribbean and outlined programmes and activities of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre in supporting member governments.

The Regional Director highlighted the importance of guiding tools such as National Youth Policies, Youth Mainstreaming initiatives and the need for the revitalization of the Regional Youth Movement.

Mr. Charles also took the opportunity to hold bilateral discussions with representatives of the Inter-American Development

and consolidate youth participation; strengthen the capacities of young people in the field of public youth policies; offer the participants the opportunity to exchange opinions with decision-makers and experts from the region; promote and reinforce intercultural dialogue in the Americas using the Americas Youth Network as a mechanism to achieve this; and open a space to publicise and articulate the work of the different organisations that work on youth issues in the region.

The event was also used as a forum to launch the Americas Youth Network and a Charter signed by more than 70 delegates drawn from about 35 countries of the Americas. The Americas Youth Network is intended to be an instrument to follow-up and articulate the recommendations of Youth Fora and youth-related activities in the region.

Among the main sponsors were UNESCO's Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education and the United Nations Association of the



Participants at the last Regional Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting, one of several regional CYPCC interventions highlighted by Regional Director Mr Henry Charles at the forum.

Bank (IDB), the United Nations Office for Drug Control, the Latin American and Caribbean Office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Latin American Centre on Youth.

The principal objectives of the five-day conference were to reinforce

Dominican Republic (UNA-DR) in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO of the Dominican Republic, the Dominican Republic National Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO's Montevideo Field Office (SHS).

Youth Empowerment critical for youth leadership



Regional Director Mr Henry Charles and Guyana's Prime Minister, the Honourable Mr Samuel Hinds.

Guyana's Prime Minister, Samuel Hinds joined young people from around the Caribbean to celebrate International Youth Day in Georgetown on August 12 2008, under the theme 'Youth and Climate Change: Time for Action'.

Mr Hinds and Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Director Henry Charles were special guests at the first Caribbean Red Cross Youth Forum, aimed at boosting the capacity of Red Cross youth volunteers and members.

At the Forum, Mr Charles addressed delegates about Making Youth Leadership a Reality, and stressed the importance of youth empowerment.

"While there can be no doubt that the State has a primary responsibility and moral obligation to facilitate the creation of the enabling environment for youth empowerment, this can only be achieved through strategic partnerships involving young people, their democratic networks, kinships, governments, civil society, the media, and international development stakeholders," he said.

He pointed out that empowering

young people means creating and supporting those enabling conditions under which young people can act on their own behalf, and on their own terms, rather than at the direction of others.

"These include an economic and social base; political will; adequate resource allocation and supportive legal and administrative frameworks; a stable environment of equality; peace and democracy; and access to knowledge, information and skills, and a positive value system," said Mr Charles.

At the two-day meeting, he extended greetings on behalf of Commonwealth Secretary General, Mr Kamallesh Sharma, the Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Dr Fatiha Serour, and the Pan Commonwealth Youth Caucus.

Prime Minister Hinds also addressed the gathering on behalf of the Government and people of Guyana. He highlighted various challenges and opportunities that globalization posed and called upon young people to remain focused in their quest for self actualisation.

Anguilla to host National Conference on Youth Development

Anguilla is preparing to host its Second Annual National Conference on Youth and Development on November 25, 2008 under the theme: "We going right up in there! Putting our stamp on the decision making process."

The event is being organized by the Anguilla National Youth Council, the National Youth Ambassador Corps and the Ministry of Social Development Department of Youth and Culture.

private sector agencies on policy, legislation, programmes and in general, issues of interest to national development.

The topics up for selection were compiled by interviewing various public and private sector agencies about policy, legislation and programmes currently under development that require public consultation and feedback. This approach seeks to ensure that the topics discussed are relevant to the current development agenda.

The final product is a list of



The forum provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the decision making process; increases their awareness of national development issues; develops leadership and facilitation skills; and provides mechanism for public consultation.

Designed to incorporate a youth perspective into the decision making process, the conference brings together young people of varying interests and backgrounds to deliberate and provide feedback to public and

22 items including among others: Labour and Immigration Policy, Strategies for managing the impact of the global economic crisis, the new Education Act and Regulations, Sustainable Tourism Development Policy, Climate Change and Strategies for Promoting Respect and Understanding.

In 2007 the topics selected for deliberation were, Crime and Violence, Access to Education, Lifestyle Diseases and Child Protection.

St Vincent and the Grenadines observes Caribbean Youth Day



A group of students at a heritage site during the Youth Heritage Tour on September 30.

The Department of Youth Affairs of St Vincent and the Grenadines in collaboration with the Regional Youth Caucus representative Ms Shenica Haynes conducted a successful Youth Heritage Tour of several local communities in observance of Caribbean Youth Day on September 30.

The objective of the tour was to teach young people about some of the tourist attractions on the Leeward side of the country and to raise awareness of the various aspects of the islands.

Some of the areas visited were Richmond, the Vermont Nature Trail, the Layou Petroglyph, the Darkview Falls, the local prison at Glebe and the Landfill.

During the tour various

aspects of the sites and their history were highlighted by the guide. The students were also educated about the need to protect and save the various heritage sites. Students also took the opportunity to take notes and ask questions.

Teachers and Youth Officers from the Ministry of Youth also benefited from the exercise and were challenged to share the information with others.

*If you tell me something
I will forget...
If you show me something
I might forget...
But if you involve me
I will remember...
Embrace all opportunities
to become involved !!!*

Guyanese Youth in Caribbean Youth Day celebration

Scores of Guyanese youth from a number of schools and youth groups converged at the Guyana Teachers Union (GTU) Hall in Woolford Avenue, Georgetown on October 3 for a day of interaction and cultural performances in observance Caribbean Youth Day.

The event, which was a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC), sought to recognize the positive accomplishments of young people in society.

Invitees were treated to a number of cultural performances including song, poetry, dance and drama. This was followed by two short films shown by the Ethnic Relations Commission. The films carried messages of peace with a view to helping young people to promote the subject in their respective communities and the need to respect each other regardless of their differences.

After the films participants were divided into groups to discuss ways in which they could promote peace in their schools, homes and communities.

Photo Highlights of Caribbean Youth Day celebration in Guyana



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

And then...Came Me

*by Cedric Gibson
The Bahamas*

*In all the world, there maybe others
Who may have some parts like me; and
Sometimes think like me
But still no one adds up exactly like me.*

*Just like a rose that glows
I was planted by nature's hands,
nourished by the moon
Showered by the sun, like the beautiful
rose in full bloom.*

*The spirit that inhabits my body
Is imparted from my forefathers
And have unleashed the gifts such as
Humor, vocal style and leadership.*

*Today an African king has been born
Crossing the boundary that awaits him
Conquering the obstacles that face him
And resolving the problems that draws
him.*

*Yes a mystical leader
Anxiously awaiting the 21 Century
Where dreams will meet reality
And choices determine destiny.
This leader shall be called Cedric Gibson
111*

I Am

*by Caesarina M. Paul
Dominica*

*I am a young woman
Different in kind
I am a proud woman
With my own mind.*

*I love the body that I own
I love the knowledge that I've earned
Though I'm not perfect
I love who I am
Though I am limited
My spirit is high.*

*I am phenomenal
Different in kind
My character is personal
My feelings are mine.*

*I treasure my body
I respect my soul, its my personal reality
That I'm remarkably beautiful
That's just some of who
I am.*

Any poems or short stories?

Publish them here!

E-mail them to

nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org

Give us the Vibes!

**Let us know about youth
activities and developments
in your country.**