



**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME  
CARIBBEAN CENTRE**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**MEETING OF THE REGIONAL ADVISORY  
BOARD 2005**

**ST. KITTS MARRIOTT RESORT, FRIGATE BAY  
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS  
OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2005**

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**REPORT**

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**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Regional Advisory Board (RAB) for the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) Caribbean Centre convened its regular biennial meeting during the week of October 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis.
2. The RAB was attended senior Government Officials and National Youth Caucus representatives of Member Governments of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos; and also included representation from the Caribbean Community Secretariat and the University of the West Indies. The list of RAB Delegations and the Secretariat is attached as *Appendix 1*.
3. The RAB was declared formally open on the evening of October 10<sup>th</sup> 2005 by the Honourable Sam Terrance Condor, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Youth Education, Social, Community Development and Gender, of the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Other distinguished Addresses were delivered by Mrs. Cristal de Saldanha of the CYP Pan-Commonwealth Office, Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director, CYP Caribbean Centre, and Mr. Norman Gilbert, incoming Coordinator of the Regional Youth Caucus.
4. The Addresses delivered at the Official Opening Ceremony are found at *Appendix 2*.
5. Several distinguished awards were conferred at the Opening Ceremony. The RAB publicly acknowledged the energy, passion and dedication of CYP Regional Director Mr. Armstrong Alexis to the development of youth and youth work in the Caribbean during the period of his tenure from September 05, 1999 to September 04, 2005. In accepting his award, Mr. Alexis expressed his deep appreciation to all Governments of the Region and to the CYPCC Team for the support he had received during his tenure.
6. Mr. Wilton John, retiring Director of Youth of Trinidad and Tobago was also honoured by the RAB for his service to youth development. Mr. John acknowledged the kind gesture, and indicated that service to youth will remain his ongoing commitment.

7. The other major milestone of the evening was the presentation of **Commonwealth Gold and Silver Awards** to winning projects submitted by young men and women from the Region, highlighting youth of the Commonwealth Caribbean as true partners in democracy and development of their communities. The Gold Award, a cheque, certificates and a medallion was awarded to the Challenger Fishing Group of Aruka River Mouth, Maburuma, a rural village in the interior of Guyana. This group also won the Silver Award. Other silver Award winners were the Dominica Paix- Bouche Dance Theatre, and the Saint Kitts National Youth Parliament HIV/Aids Response Project. Directors of Youth of the respective countries received prize earnings on behalf of the youth projects.

#### **AGENDA AND WORK**

8. Mr. Osmond Petty, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Youth, was unanimously elected as Chair of the RAB, supported by Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director and *Ex-Officio* Secretary of the RAB. The Meeting formally adopted the Working Agenda, which is attached as *Appendix 3*.
9. The main working documents for the RAB 2005 was CYPCC's Performance and Evaluation Report for the reporting period July 2003 to June 2005. The Report of CYMM 2003 held in Botswana, highlights of RAB 2002 held in the British Virgin Islands and other CYP Governance and working papers were also referenced.
10. The RAB began by critically reviewing CYP's performance for the 2003-2005 period and assessed how the organisation had performed in its four main programme areas, having regards to the relevance of its programming support to Member States. Moving from this interrogation of programme relevance in terms of national youth development agendas, the RAB also examined the youth development issues faced by Member States with a view to streamlining national and CYP responses to development. In this regard, moving from past performance to the current development context, the RAB examined the emerging trends and issues relating to Caribbean youth development, especially in the light of their effects on social and economic development in member countries.
11. Keeping in mind national priorities, Member States interrogated what thematic interventions by CYPCC and Governments could jointly contribute to sustainable regional youth development and in that context they came up with several areas of recommendations and action points and areas of responsibility for advancing thematic areas.
12. The interrogation of emerging issues in youth development and responses for sustainable youth development was supported by two technical presentations:
  - a. ***The New Socio-Political Architecture: Implications for Youth Policy***, Dr. Tennyson Joseph, Temporary Lecturer in Political Science Department of

Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados (*See Appendix 4*); and

- b. *A tracer study of graduates of the National Youth Service, Jamaica*, Mr. Lincoln Williams, Tutor / Coordinator Social Welfare Training Centre, UWI, Mona Campus (*See Appendix 5*).

## **CYP ADMINISTRATION AND PERFORMANCE**

13. The 2003 – 2005 Performance Report was tabled by CYP's Regional Director and Programme Managers gave specific details about performance in relation to Governance, Development and Youth Networks, Youth Enterprise Development, Youth Participation and Youth Work Education and Training.
14. The Performance Report raised the issue of adjustments that had to be made to budgetary allocations in order to match receipts that were below expectations from Member States to meet commitments across the four regions of the Commonwealth. The Report also attempted to quantify the technical support provided to Member States from budgetary allocations.
15. Barbados again stressed the need for CYPCC to uphold the 1998 mandate of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Ministerial Review Group (MRG) to reduce its administrative costs to no more than 15% of programme costs and recommended that the reporting show actual figures of administrative and programme costs.
16. The Barbados Director also felt that programming allocations should be so managed to ensure a more equitable distribution across all member States CYP reporting and data should be examined on whether youth programmes are used or not used in countries in order to demonstrate the value.
17. The RAB 2005 was reminded that programmes allocations may show apparent imbalances to countries, especially in YED where only certain countries had adopted the CYCI programme, as CYP's work is demand driven.
18. Barbados also reminded the Meeting that the Report omitted status updates on several issues agreed by CYMM 2003, namely:
  - a. A status update on the communication from Ministers of Youth regarding the role, function and services offered by CYPCC
  - b. The status of the YDI
  - c. The status of work completed on the research agenda "Young Men and Society, Youth Motivation and the History of the Youth Movement."
  - d. An update on the Youth Summit
  - e. An update on the progress of CYP's work amongst grass roots youth
  - f. The progress of technical assistance to member states with respect to the development of strategic and operational plans.

19. In support of the work of CYP, Grenada was grateful for support for youth policy, which was adopted by the Government and is due to be enacted in 2006.
20. St. Lucia stated that the CYP has many responsibilities and faces many challenges. As such Governments should be more proactive in informing CYP what they need so that the CYP could be a more effective partner in development. CYP also should be put on squarely on countries' youth development agenda for better networking to serve mutual development goals. Moreover, two-way channels of communication/discussion and regular follow-up are needed on CYP programme matters.
21. Members felt that the CYPCC Report should make reference to financial contributions and other support of Caribbean States to rebuilding Grenada after hurricane Ivan.

#### **FINANCE, FINANCIAL REPORTS AND PLEDGES**

22. Given the foregoing discussions, the RAB proceeded to the status of finances. The status of Commonwealth Caribbean Member States commitments to CYP was tabled. The RD updated Member States on the status of operating finances and in particular indicated how CYP financial status could possibly impact technical support, for which requests were increasing disproportionately to the available income.
23. Directors were urged to ensure that outstanding arrears and payments to CYP be addressed. Directors gave relevant updates of action being taken in this regard and CYP expressed support for the level of support and commitment shown by Directors towards this aim.

#### **CYP COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**

24. Issues relating to the dissemination of the RAB Reports and notifications gave rise to several expressions of dissatisfaction about CYP's lack of timely communication and advisories. Member referred to the very late receipt of notices and documentation about important events such as Commonwealth Day and Caribbean Youth Day, and on matters requiring feedback. Discussions revealed that in many cases internal bureaucratic challenges between the Youth Department and the parent Ministry served to exacerbate the problem.
25. St. Vincent and the Grenadines expressed concern with the way communication from Headquarters is managed on RYC matters, sometimes directly with RYC's with no reference to Youth Directors, and asked that proper channels and courtesies be observed in this regard.
26. In respect of **Commonwealth Day**, members also felt that the Message is too long and that CYPCC website releases seemed to focus only on Guyana. CYPCC explained that the Message is standard and countries will have to make provision as they see fit for its

widest dissemination. In respect of Commonwealth Day releases, CYP does not receive reports of activities or relevant photographs from other Member states, but used records of the Centre's observances in Guyana.

27. In terms of improving CYP's communication, marketing and profile, the **RAB agreed** that that:
- a. CYP should streamline how it communicates with Member States (CYP reiterated that it will issue correspondence to member states via mail (originals) and electronic mail, copy such correspondence to the Youth Director when she/he is not the principal recipient, issue faxed copies and follow up with phone calls)
  - b. Member states will provide CYP with updated contact details to facilitate the communication flow described above;
  - c. CYP should ensure with London Office that communication flow is also respected, essentially so Directors of Youth are always kept in the loop.
  - d. CYP should update its public awareness and marketing strategy in order to attract and target more young people both in terms of what CYP does, and also so young people can offer their talents and networks as part of the wider youth participation strategy.
  - e. Commonwealth Day publications would be enhanced by Member States providing information on their observance and relevant photographs to CYP to include in reports and releases.

#### **CARIBBEAN YOUTH DAY**

28. St. Lucia proposed a revisit of the importance or impact of Caribbean Youth Service Day celebrated on September 30 as countries in the Region have designated special periods on national calendars for youth observance. Barbados suggested that there is support in countries for the observance of Caribbean Youth Day but information about its observance is always received too late for much impact. The representative also felt that themes should be practical and encompass the CYP's objectives. Several other countries (Turks & Caicos, Antigua, Barbados) supported the retention of CYD.
29. The **RAB agreed that** CYD should continue to be observed annually and that CYP will suggest CYD themes out of programme objectives and send information to member states at least a year in advance.

#### **REVIEW OF PAYE AND YDI**

30. The RAB discussed the PAYE and YDI, in the context of the PAYE survey that was issued to both Governments and Youth Networks, and the Report of the Inter-agency Consultation on the Formulation and Development of the Youth Development Index, respectively. Member States were asked to focus on what CYP and government can do to advance the PAYE and YDI. In particular, they were asked to make proposals for promoting and gaining wider use of the PAYE and in terms of developing youth indicators.

31. The RAB agreed that PAYE and YDI should be better integrated as tools to guide programme delivery in the fulfilment of CYP's work in its strategic areas.
32. The RAB recommended that PAYE should:
- a. Continue, with amendments to take into account the MDGs/UN Goals, CARICOM's Regional Strategy for Youth Development and an asset based approach
  - b. Be revised to consider region-specific issues such as CSME-
  - c. Provide for the management of youth partnership issues.
  - d. Address youth delinquency/crime as a strategic objective.
  - e. Include mechanisms by which youth can hold themselves accountable for their own actions.
  - f. Contain a built-in mechanism for annual monitoring and evaluation
  - g. Address a strong advocacy agenda empowerment.
  - h. Provide built-in performance measurement criteria for application to the relevant implementing interests (Governments/CYP/PCO etc.)
  - i. Emphasise the civic roles and responsibilities of young people (nation-building).
33. The RAB **also recommended** that the CYP should move with urgency to complete the YDI, which would serve as an important overall assessment tool and also be used to measure accountability of governments and partners for youth empowerment. The YDI should be developed to support assessing and evaluating youth advocacy; measuring the impact of development programmes on the circumstances of youth; and ensuring accountability towards youth empowerment.

## REGIONAL YOUTH CAUCUS

34. The Regional Youth Caucus presented its Summary Report and recommendations that sought to enhance RYC participation in youth work at national level and at the level of CYPCC programmes. The RYC Report was presented by newly elected RYC Chairman Mr. Norman Gilbert of Grenada. The Report gave an overview of RYC activities for the 2003 –2005 period highlighting achievements and challenges. The Report also provides a better understanding of the roles that RYCs perform and what are their areas of reporting and accountability to Governments, CYPCC, and other youth in communities and to the NYCs.
35. The RYC Report tabled recommendations for the consideration of Governments and the CYP on how RYCs can be better supported in the areas of training, resources and access to information in order to strengthening RYC operations and networking at nation and regional levels.
36. The Report pointed to the desirability of more rigorous candidate selection to arrive at youth who truly represent national constituents both urban and rural, proper gender

representation in the RYC, and sustainability of national RYC work through the identification of an RYC and an alternate in each country.

37. The RYC Report detailed several projects they wanted to develop and implement to support youth in their communities and in particular grass–root and ‘on-the block’ youth. It stressed, however, that RYC would require dedicated Government support to function effectively: place for them to meet, internet, faxing and teleconferencing facilities and also facilitate their access to information about youth programmes in other ministries and departments.
38. In addition, the Report raised the issue of CYP and or Governments providing RYC with general stipends and especially in cases where an RYC had suffered loss of earnings through having to attend to official RYC functions.
39. The Report also pointed to the need for CYP support for capacity building, regional and global networking and advocacy and to provide financial support to enable RYC to run small-scale projects in countries.
40. RYC also requested consideration for a Commonwealth or Government identification to facilitate their travel and for them to be designated ambassadors with diplomatic recognition. This generated discussion about the designation of RYC as ambassadors with the rights and privileges as such.
41. After discussion and clarification of some issues, it was determined that the matter of RYC stipends for loss of earnings would have to be decided on a country by country basis, while CYP would explore the allocation of resources to enable RYC to better support programming delivery such as proposed in the case of YED. Moreover, the RAB agreed that diplomatic representation and recognition of individuals were the sole purview of Governments and RYC designations would have to be treated in a like manner.
42. The Meeting agreed to adopt the list of RYC recommendations, *mutatis mutandis*. The RYC Report is attached as **Appendix 6**.

## **YOUTH NETWORKS**

43. The role of young people in the development and in particular the willingness and ability of young people to shape governance and development was also raised. Delegations felt that all youth networks should be brought into the development agenda and unattached youth should also benefit from capacity development.
44. The RAB noted the dormancy of the Caribbean Youth Federation and the absence of a democratically-elected and functioning Regional Youth Movement from which leaders in all spheres could leverage to shape political, social and economic development mindful of the youth perspectives.



45. The RAB learnt that CARICOM had made attempts to assess what support could be offered for this purpose through its youth ambassadors but the matter had not borne fruit. The RAB also recalled that the RYC Report identified some practical steps in getting the regional youth movement going, and support structures for National Youth organization. The RAB fully endorsed these initiatives, noting that support should be offered to revitalize the Caribbean Youth Movement once a youth-inclusive, representational and democratic proposal came from young people and youth networks.
46. The **RAB agreed** that CYP and CARICOM should lend support to revitalize the Caribbean Youth Movement, as enunciated in the RYC Report, once a youth-inclusive, representational and democratic proposal came from young people and youth networks.
47. In the same way, the RAB noted with concern problems affecting National Youth Councils (NYCs) and saw the need for focused support to strengthen and support establishment of NYCs as well as for youth Parliaments. St. Kitts reported that its National Youth Council had been re-established.
48. In supporting the need for democratically elected, strong and functioning youth organizations at the national and regional level, the **RAB supported** the design and of a standard NYC model, especially to guide those countries where there are no functioning NYCs. In terms of strengthening existing and newly-established NYCs, the **RAB agreed** that CYP had a continuing role to play, noting that request for NYC support should emanate as an NYC-driven initiative with minimal government interference.

## **YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

49. CYP referred to the survey it had developed and administered to youth clubs and networks to analyse trends in youth participation. The findings had not been fully analysed but pointed to a decline in volunteerism and the difficulty faced by youth who had to balance youth work and responsibilities with the achievement of personal educational and career goals. The latter was tending to take priority. CYP admitted that the survey had not been fully analysed. The Barbados Director of Youth offered his resources to fully analyse the data.
50. Some delegations expressed the view that young people are willing take up roles of responsibility and we must expect that when they are prompted to take up these situations they are able to deliver, but they must also be provided with the necessary tools for the purpose. Others discussed the youth need strong support foundations and that parenting needs to be a key item on the youth development agenda as most of the problems associated with dysfunctional youth originate in the home.
51. There was consensus that youth are responsible for their own empowerment and they should be held accountable. They also need to be stronger advocates and must challenge their governments more effectively to ensure that their needs are met.

52. The Meeting noted the high levels of unemployment facing youth populations and the failure of sugar and banana industries in the Caribbean which exacerbated the situation. The entertainment industry and special events such as Cricket World Cup 2007 could, however, offer Caribbean Governments better scope for creating employment using non-traditional avenues favoured by youth (such as music, sports and entertainment). They also offered ready opportunities to celebrate and showcase youth achievements.
53. The Meeting, however, pointed to the need for long-term and sustained investments in youth development, including through quality training, better and ongoing access to life skills and skills to deal with the pressures of contemporary life.
54. It was also discussed that youth need to be equal partners from the inception of decision-making and development initiatives but systems are often not in place to accept them as equal partners. Young people also needed to hold themselves responsible for fulfilling roles and responsibilities of office.
55. The Commonwealth Youth Development Awards were also discussed as a good mechanism for increasing young participation in community and development work. The RAB mandated CYP to circulate copies of winning CYDA submissions more widely and enhance its publication of the Awards, as a as basis for generating greater awareness and participation.
56. Some countries also referred to the presentation on the Jamaica Youth Service and the experiences of similar national schemes and supported the introduction of a Youth Service and structured programmes to address the concerns of at risk and marginalized of youth.
57. The RAB noted the need for more Government investment in youth to increase the ability of young men and women to participate effectively all levels of decision-making and in particular through training; by engaging the private sector; by placing youth at the centre of development projects; and by attracting funding and assistance to support national youth service and other development programmes both for at risk and mainstream youth.
58. In terms of enhancing youth participation, engagement and positive awareness, **RAB further agreed that CYP should:**
- a. Use all media, TV, printed materials, digital, audio and performing arts to reach youth
  - b. Explore ways to reach grass-root youth and unattached youth who need to be targeted for motivation and life skills training.
  - c. Develop mechanisms to facilitate young people establishing and managing their own youth (country and community) networks.
  - d. Develop and implement more programmes that promote self-awareness in youth
  - e. In conjunction with Member Governments and others partners develop a scheme of Caribbean Youth Awards to recognise innovations and talents of individual young men and women.

- f. Together with Governments should give special focus to research studies and programmes that address the marginalisation, vulnerability and special circumstances of the Caribbean male.

## **YOUTH MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS**

59. Deliberations focussed on the challenges and opportunities faced in designing and implementing youth policy; the resource limitations in youth departments that impacted the youth development process; what new strategies and partnerships could be considered to empower departments; and how youth development, youth policy and implementation and youth participation could be made more effective by better integrated young people and youth networks as key players in the process.
60. Governments again raised issues relating to resource and capacity limitations facing Youth Ministries and Departments. They emphasized the need for capacity strengthening for Youth Directors and Officers who were new to their posts. They suggested that technical assistance should be provided for new Youth Directors to understudy active Youth Departments with access to coaching, mentoring, assessment and evaluation.
61. Delegations also spoke of the need for support through the definition of a model youth development department / agency, which could also show what was adequate in terms of resources: staff, equipment, space and though setting a ratio of youth workers to the general youth population.
62. They also expressed the view that there would be more priority given to strengthening youth departments if youth development work was recognised as a separate professional discipline and youth development work seen as a facet of national development.
63. Some delegations felt that CYP should play a role in lobbying governments to pitch classification/ remuneration grades for youth workers at the same level of other professional grades in the public service. Some countries felt that the post of Head, Youth division should be on par with grades and salaries other top level grades in the public sector. This matter did not achieve consensus.
64. There was consensus, however, that the status of youth ministries and departments must be enhanced in proportion to the level of investment made in youth development through priority allocation of resources.
65. The following requests were tabled to be further detailed by Member States for scheduling, budgeting and action:
  - a. Technical assistance to update or develop National Youth Policy - Antigua, Turks and Caicos, Bahamas, and Grenada
  - b. Technical assistance to support the establishment of a Youth Department – Antigua and Barbuda, Turks and Caicos, Bahamas, and Grenada –

- c. Technical support for an attachment to the Barbados Youth Department for the Director of Youth of the BVI
  - d. Technical assistance to support the establishment of a National Youth Council member states – Antigua and Barbuda, Turks and Caicos, Bahamas, and Grenada
  - e. Technical Assistance to Turks & Caicos to develop a Youth Data Base
  - f. Technical assistance to Grenada for the training of the youth officers
  - g. Support for attachments/ internships for Youth Officers at the Barbados Youth Department.
66. To support Governments to modernise and re-position Youth Ministries and Departments, the delegations shared the view that there should be institutionalised strengthening of Youth Ministries through agencies such as the World Bank.

67. The RAB **agreed that** CYP should:

- a. Provide technical assistance for new Youth Directors to develop their capacity to manage youth Departments.
- b. Seek mechanisms to strengthen the research unit/ research capability within Youth Departments.
- c. Provide support for attachments and internships for Directors and Youth Officers to more established Departments such as Barbados.
- d. Develop and disseminate coaching, mentoring, assessment and evaluation tools.
- e. Explore the delivery of a certified Trainers of Trainers / programme to create a cadre of expertise in countries for sustainable youth development within CYP programme areas.
- f. Provide direction on what could be an ideal youth (agency) Department or Ministry: resources; staff, equipment, systems, ratio of youth workers to youth population; relevance to economic and social (integrated national) agenda, develop job description etc;
- g. Document best practices/ models and success stories in collaboration with departments of Youth Affairs of Member States for the general guidance of all member States

## **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

68. Member States unanimously agreed that both CYP and Governments had a bigger role to play in transforming how youth development is managed and how youth work is positioned in the national landscape. To this end, the **RAB recommended** that CYP should:
- a. Promote/ develop a Lecture Series targeting policy makers, private sector and high-level decision makers on youth development work
  - b. Convene a regional research symposium to invite academic and other debate on issues in and on Youth Development

- c. Develop/ launch a research study on the impact of social exclusion on unattached youth
  - d. Publish a quarterly Journal of research, case studies and position papers on YD issues
  - e. Promote academic research as an investment in youth
  - f. Use the results of research to engage the private sector to market youth as assets and for them to make sustained investments in youth.
  - g. Provide for/ support the development of a regional research agenda and marketing strategies to increase and promote the status of youth work.
69. RAB also **recommended** that CYP should serve as a clearing house for best practices and models in youth development, including matters of youth policy and functioning of youth councils, youth programmes and so and member states would provide CYP with appropriate data for the development and sharing of best practices.

## NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

70. Member countries provided status updates on the development and implementation of youth policy in their respective administrations and discussed the capacity of Youth Ministries and Youth networks to undertake the development and implementation of NYP. The status update is shown at *Appendix 7*.
71. There was agreement that each country had the mandate to ensure that the National Youth Policies are proactive, developmental in nature and are implemented and supported. The RAB recommended that CYP develop and achieve agreement on an outline strategy (indicative action/activities) to support youth policy implementation efforts (including development of youth departments).
72. The **RAB agreed that** efforts should be made to seek creative solutions for youth issues such as unemployment, youth participation, teenage pregnancy, etc by formulating youth policy in a proactive manner as opposed to a defensive (social welfare) manner.
73. It was also **agreed** that Governments would forward Youth Policy papers to CYP for dissemination to assist other member States in policy development mandates.

## YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

74. The success of CYP Youth Enterprise Development programme in Dominica, Guyana and St. Lucia was discussed. In relation to concerns expressed that YED resources should be spread across all countries not only those with CYCI-based programmes, it was suggested that CYP should commit the YED resources to research and market enterprise development and should develop best practices out of existing successful programmes such as YES Barbados.

75. In terms of good practice with respect to youth enterprise development, the Barbados Director of Youth indicated that Barbados has a tried and tested junior (primary) school youth enterprise awareness programmes that is functioning well and attracting good responses. He offered to make the programme available to CYP for dissemination to all Member States who want to adopt such a programme.
76. There was consensus on the need for countries that had not yet done so to develop schemes to support youth entrepreneurship, and it was felt that special policy and incentives should accompany national youth enterprise development programmes. More importantly, it was felt that CYP and Governments needed to address the lack of a culture of entrepreneurship in the Caribbean as a starting point. Discussion pointed to the need to create a robust enterprise awareness culture within the educational system as the prerequisite for sustained enterprise development and social and economic growth.
77. CYP pointed out that it had already identified this need and programmed for it in its upcoming cycle. CYP also pointed out the work being done to support the youth entrepreneurs such as a mentoring package and a business support practicum, as well as the standardisation of tools, models and enabling processes and systems (using ICTs) to enhance programme delivery and acceptance.
78. Issues relating to the development of a dedicated public awareness programme and instructional material on YED and research and marketing of enterprise development and entrepreneurship to assess the impact of micro-enterprise and micro-credit on youth were also discussed in terms of cementing strong and sustainable programmes to benefit young people.
79. In addition to the direction indicated above for CYP's YED programming, the **RAB recommended that CYP:**
- a. Document and develop case studies and best practices out of existing successful programmes such as YES Barbados.
  - b. Develop micro-business standards, tools, models and enabling processes and systems (using ICTs) to enhance programme delivery and acceptance.
  - c. Making better use of CYP- youth resources such as RYCs and provide them with special resources to market/deliver YED projects to grass-root communities<sup>1</sup> YED
  - d. Provide special loans on a small scale for RYC projects on a need basis
  - e. Convene a Youth Enterprise Donors Forum bringing together private sector and donor partners
  - f. Create mechanisms to support business expansion and growth.
80. **RAB also agreed that** CYP should accept Barbados's offers of its junior school youth enterprise awareness programme as a matter of urgency and thereafter make it available to all countries.

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<sup>11</sup> In its Report to RAB 2005, the Caribbean RYC presented a project proposal to run small entrepreneurship projects among youth grass root communities that will resonate with the target audience such as sports-related etc. See *Appendix 7*.

## YOUTH WORK EDUCATION AND TRAINING

81. There was strong support for the work already done by CYP in youth work education and training in relation to the Diploma Course in Youth Work, the development of an associate degree in youth work and the development of competency standards for youth work. Speaking on the relevance of formal training in youth work, Dominica's Youth Director indicated that only 3 out of its 15 youth officers do not have formal youth work training, i.e. at the CYP certificate or diploma course levels. He encouraged other Departments and Ministries to have pursue the training and suggested that even persons with degrees would benefit from the Diploma Course in youth work. Bahamas on the other hand pointed out its difficulty with the programme because the Government does not recognise distance learning/correspondence courses
82. Countries also shared the status of preparedness for national consultations of the competency standards. Grenada indicated that it intended to make competency standards for public service youth workers mandatory. All member states provided updates on the status of national consultations on the competency standards (*Appendix 8*) and committed to the convening of the national consultations.
83. The need for the recognition of youth development work as a profession of was hotly debated. Some members expressed that youth development work is still viewed as social work and promoting the competency and professional standards of youth work will assist in elevating the role of Youth Directors and Youth Ministries and youth development on the national agenda.
84. A request by RYCs was made for CYP and Governments to provide sponsorship for RYCs to undertake the diploma in youth work programme. It was felt that RYCs could individually pursue their interests in this matter. CYPCC indicated that a training bundle for youth leaders with essential learning components was being developed that would also benefit RYCs.
85. In relation to ongoing YWET programming, the **RAB recommended that CYP:**
  - a. Continue developing the associate degree and undergraduate degree in Youth Work and work towards a doctoral degree in youth work;
  - b. Proceed vigorously with the design and implementation of competency standards;
  - c. Document best practices in youth work and provide a forum for connecting diplomates/ students with each other;
  - d. Explore partnerships options with the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) which is the regional platform for tertiary-level training institutions using ICTs to transfer knowledge and develop human resources;
  - e. Seek to facilitate scholarships for nationals to pursue the programme;
  - f. Explore the development /implementation of a youth development curriculum for secondary schools in the Region with the CXC.

## **PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES (CARICOM)**

86. Dr. Heather Johnson presented a paper entitled “Perspectives on Partnership with CARICOM’s Regional Youth Agenda”.
87. The RAB discussed at length the need for closer collaboration with CYP and CARICOM in respect of the regional youth development agenda. It was expressed that countries are spending scarce resources to have multiple meetings with both agencies on the same youth issues and there was a call for better planning and coordination of scarce resources with regard to the mobilization of youth and youth work. Delegations felt that as a means of managing scarce resources and optimising youth development delivery across the region, there should ideally be one joint Directors of Youth Meeting of CARICOM/CYP.
88. Delegations first of all pointed to the need for the youth governance networks to work together, share programmes and experiences and collaborate on an ongoing basis, that is, CYP’s Regional Youth Caucus and CARICOM’s Youth Ambassadors. As a practical step, it was felt that RYCs should collaborate with Youth Ambassadors to make young people and their networks au courant with the CSME. It was also felt that RYCs and Youth Ambassador should participate in each other’s meeting and events to understand the respective decision-making and development agendas more thoroughly
89. Members also felt that both agencies should discuss ways in which young people could be better employed to better contribute to CYP’s and CARICOM’s programming delivery. For example, it was suggested that RYCs and CARICOM Youth Ambassadors should be involved/collaborate for YED delivery and that the professionalism of youth work would serve as a good foundation for partnership.
90. It was felt that young people needed a forum where they could discuss the issues facing the Caribbean and fuse regional responses for attention of CYP, CARICOM and other partners since collaboration for youth development needed to take place on a global scale and with NGOs not just between CARICOM and the Commonwealth. In this vein, some delegations saw the need to develop a scheme to young people across the Caribbean who makes outstanding contributions to development while others felt this should first be instituted at national levels.
91. Some delegations felt that mechanisms should be put in place so that a greater proportion of youth (not just RYCs and CARICOM Youth Ambassadors) could benefit from a functioning regional network. In this regard, it was suggested that CYP and CARICOM should collaborate to reach youth in communities and to strengthening National Youth Councils. It was also felt that that attention should focus on designing a regional capacity development agenda for youth on which all agencies could collaborate for its implementation.
92. **The RAB agreed that** CARICOM Youth Desk and the CYP should meet and develop an MOU to reflect the RAB discussions for the further consideration of CYMM and CARICOM HoGs, and that further, the agencies should collaborate to convene a Special



Summit for Youth Ministers (Strategic Visioning Retreat) to discuss and agree on youth policy, programmes and priorities and to achieve consensus and support for intervention strategies and collaborative delivery mechanisms.

## GOVERNANCE

93. Member States received brief updates on the status of preparations for CHOGM 2005 in Malta and for CYMM 2006 to be held in the Bahamas. The Meeting learnt that the Government of the Bahamas had extended special courtesies to Ministers of Government for accommodation. As such, it was hoped that this would ease budgetary constraints to ensure full representation of Caribbean delegations at CYMM 2006.

## OTHER MATTERS – CYMM, CYE AND RAB 2007

94. CYP referred to the Report of the CYE 2004 in Trinidad and Tobago that was made available to the RAB, and tabled its appreciation to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and to the Department of Youth in particular for the excellent support received in the hosting of the Exchange in Tunapuna, Trinidad.

95. In response to questions from delegates, CYP reminded the RAB that the host country is responsible for in country support for local travel, receptions, secretariat-facility, staff and identifying accommodation for delegates. CYP provides for travel and programme facilitation. CYP makes available a standard listing of host country requirements in respect of biennial Youth Exchanges.

96. CYP also referred to its development of further guidelines that would assist countries when hosting Exchanges and which in particular would satisfy the need as expressed by youth delegates themselves, to be more integrally involved in the management of day to day Exchange activities.

97. The **RAB noted with appreciation** the offers from Directors of Youth of Belize, the British Virgin and Islands to be considered as hosts for the 2006 Youth Exchange, noting further that CYP would contact each country to work out specific details.

98. The RAB **also noted with appreciation** the offers from Directors of Youth of Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to host the RAB 2007. and that CYP will communicate with each country individually on hosting details to confirm the RAB 2007 venue.

99. The RAB concluded with expressions of appreciation to the Government and people of Saint Kitts and Nevis and especially to the Chairman of the proceedings and the Director of Youth and his department for the excellent support received for the hosting and conduct of proceedings.

100. The RAB issued a Communiqué on the outcome of its deliberations, attached as *Appendix 9*.

**Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre  
Meeting of Regional Youth Caucus  
St. Kitts Marriott Resort  
October 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2005**

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL YOUTH CAUCUS TO THE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD**

The Regional Youth Caucus convened during October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2005 for the purpose of assessing the work and impact in member countries with the objective of formalizing a work plan of the RYC for the consideration of RAB 2005.

The Meeting reviewed the Summary Report and Draft Strategic Plan agreed at the Strategic Retreat held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in April 2005. The Meeting also extensively went through the *Pan-Commonwealth Youth Caucus Youth Representative Handbook* which provides standard operating guidelines for RYC across the Commonwealth.

Discussions were guided by the recommendations and conclusions of the Summary Report of the RYC Retreat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines as well as on the new and emerging priorities in countries, which RYC representatives brought to the table.

Given the requirements outlined for RYC representatives in the *Handbook*, and the consensus of the RYC Retreat in St. Vincent to be more responsive to the needs of all key stakeholders: Youth, Governments and CYP/CYPCC., the Meeting achieved agreement on:

1. The RYC Quarterly Reporting Format
2. The critical issues that impact youth, their personal development, as well as national and regional development.
3. The development of an intervention strategy that can be considered to deal with some of these problems and;
4. The framework, support and co-operation that is required for RYC representatives to be effective agents of change in this process.

**1. QUARTERLY REPORTING FORMAT**

The Reporting Format is attached as *Appendix A* to the Report. It provides for effective communicating to Ministries, CYP and among RYCs on the progress of RYC work with youth in respective countries.

## 2. CRITICAL ISSUES ACROSS PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Each RYC Representative identified priority issues in their communities and countries that impact the youth as follows;

<p><b>Youth Empowerment</b>  <b>Planning and governance at all levels</b>  <b>Environmental management</b>  <b>HIV/AIDS</b>  <b>Tertiary education /skills training</b>  <b>Youth Enterprise</b>  <b>Unemployment</b>  <b>Drug/ Substance Abuse</b>  <b>Youth violence</b>  <b>Sourcing of funding by youth from lending agencies</b>  <b>Educational issues</b>  <b>Political divisiveness</b>  <b>Teenage pregnancy</b></p>	<p><b>Lack of sporting facilities</b>  <b>Human trafficking</b>  <b>Unattached youth</b>  <b>Sexual promiscuity</b>  <b>Lack of Self identity /Self esteem</b>  <b>Laziness</b>  <b>Police brutality</b>  <b>Age discrimination</b>  <b>Hopelessness/Apathy</b>  <b>Lack of spirituality</b>  <b>Breakdown of family values</b>  <b>Migration</b>  <b>Inadequacy of rehabilitation facilities</b>  <b>Lack of respect for diversity</b></p>
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## 3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Discussions on the aforementioned critical issues led to the agreement of three strategic priorities, which allow for synergies in intervention strategies, and which are also in line with CYP's four main strategic areas.

- Youth Enterprise Development
- Youth Networks and Governance
- Youth Participation
- Youth Work Education and Training

The **strategic priorities** agreed for the RYCs are as follows

- Communication and Partnership
- Advocacy and Representation
- Program Development, Implementation and Evaluation

Four project outlines are currently being submitted for consideration as part of the aforementioned strategic priorities. These are summarized in the table below.

<b>Strategic Priority Area</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Partners/ Organizations involved</b>
Communication and Partnership	<b>Youth in Enterprise</b> <b><u>“Money in my pocket”</u></b>	<i>National RYC working group, youth organizations, The National Youth Council or similar organization and NGOs, Ministry of Youth and/or Labor, Department of Youth, CYP/CYPCC</i>
	<b>Hot Spots (Sporting for Interaction)</b>  <b><u>“Development: Youth for Sports, Sports for youth and the future through youth and sports”</u></b>	<i>National RYC working group, youth organizations, The National Youth Council or similar organization and NGOs, Ministry of Youth and/or Sports, Sporting organizations, Department of Youth, CYP/CYPCC</i>
Advocacy and Representation	<b>Youth Consultations ‘Town Hall Style’</b>  <b><u>“Empowering youth to be Vibrant, Vocal, Visible”</u></b>	<i>National RYC working group, youth organizations, The National Youth Council or similar organization and NGOs, Ministry of Youth and/or Labor, Department of Youth, Media, Unattached youth, CYP/CYPCC, CBOs, FBOs</i>
Program Development, Implementation and Evaluation	<b>Youth and Violence</b>  <b><u>“Youth in Action, Charting the future”</u></b>	<i>National RYC working group, youth organizations, The National Youth Council or similar organization and NGOs, Ministry of Youth and/or Labor, Department of Youth, D.A.R.E, CYP/CYPCC</i>

Project outlines for each proposed intervention can be found in **Appendix B**.

### **3. ENABLING FRAMEWORK OF SUPPORT AND OPERATION**

Through the implementation of initiatives such as those proposed in this document the eradication of a number of the critical issues affecting our youth can be achieved. However the effective implementation will hinge strongly on the level of support from the Pan Commonwealth/CYPCC, our respective Governments, National Youth Councils and other partners of the Commonwealth.

The RYC is of the opinion that we can reduce the number of difficulties faced by the youth in our Region, only if we are given the necessary tools.

RYCs need a collaborative support framework from Governments, PCO/CYPCC and other agents to provide the resources necessary for the effective completion of our duties and responsibilities.

Consequently, the following recommendations are tabled for consideration to support us in achieving our goal as agents of change for youth empowerment:

- i. ***Training and development*** in the underlining areas, using to the best effect possible, E-based training to avoid persons having to travel away from home and work:
  - a. Marketing, Public and Media relations, National awareness and communication
  - b. Project proposal development to ensure that projects can be better received, monitored and evaluated.
  - c. The CYP Diploma Course - to ensure professionalism in the work of the RYCs, for which CYP and Governments should provide full sponsorship.
  
- ii. ***Financial support*** should be made available to support:
  - a. The engagement and capacity development of National RYC Working Group that will be convened to support Representatives in delivering national RYC projects.
  - b. The development of a marketing strategy in the branding of CYP/CYPCC in order to increase the level of awareness of the work carried out by CYP/CYPCC.
  - c. The provision of a stipend where the RYC Representative is likely to experience financial losses from their jobs in attending forums.
  - d. The delivery of projects outlined by RYC in the strategic priorities areas
  - e. At least two (2) Meetings per year for the RYC, which may serve as a source for capacity building, evaluation and programme planning.
  
- iii. The establishment of ***support structures*** at national levels which are specifically geared towards assisting RYCs in developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on RYC activities. The RYCs will spearhead this process in each country in collaboration with the respective departments of youth and National Youth Organizations. National RYC structures should have a minimum of five and a maximum of seven members between the ages of 15- 29 years. At least one member should be from a National Youth Organization (NYO), one member from the NYC, where it exists and one member from the rural community. Gender balance is encouraged.
  
- iv. **Youth Ministries and Governments** should support RYCs more strategically in:
  - a. Gaining access to data as well as collaboration with other ministries such as Health, Agriculture, Education and otherwise to carry out youth related activities.

- b. Facilitating access to the media for RYC representatives of the respective countries.
  - c. Providing employers with official letters and supporting documents (e.g. agenda etc) to support travel request to RYC meetings and activities
  - d. Issuing information to Immigration Authorities of the countries to which RYC's are to travel, to assist in building the profile of RYC's and to facilitate easier travel.
  - e. Making available an official letter of appointment to the representatives from Governments and CYP.
  - f. Ensuring that there are **two** selected RYC representatives per country with one person being the RYC Representative and the other person being the Alternate. This will allow for better continuity and follow-up for RYC work in countries.
  - g. Ensuring that the selection process for the RYC Representative covers a wider cross-section of youth, for example, youth organizations can be responsible for nominating four eligible candidates and the Ministry of Youth together with the NYC can select the best candidate (through an interview or other process) from the pool nominated by the organizations.
- v. **CYP** provide support for:
- a. The development (re-resurgence) of the Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY) in conjunction with the RYC, which creates additional support as well as a membership base for RYC mindful of CYP/CYPCC's active role in the ability to strengthen networks.
  - b. The establishment of a Commonwealth Youth Corps for present and past members.
  - c. Appropriate identification / recognition of the RYC representatives initially an identification card and Certificate of appointment.
  - d. Better access to ICTs to assist in RYC communication and networking such as the establishment of a virtual bulletin or chat room where members can share information and experiences.
  - e. The design of standardized tools in collaboration with the RYC such as Press Release Formats, Project Proposal Formats, among others to be used for in-country activities.

We are mindful of the constraints under which government and CYP/CYPCC work. However, we believe that we need these resources and support to be more effectively channeled to us if we are to succeed in empowering our peers to face the challenges of modern day society, and thereby create a better environment for youths to become more ***Vibrant, Vocal and Visible***.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RYC RETREAT AS AMENDED BY THE CAUCUS ON OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> 2005**

The RYCs reviewed the summary of the recommendations of the RYC Retreat held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, April 2005. After discussions the Caucus forwards the following for your consideration:

1. The establishment of structures at national levels which are specifically geared towards assisting RYCs in developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on RYC activities. The RYCs will spearhead this process in each country in collaboration with the respective departments of youth and National Youth Organizations. National RYC structures should have a minimum of five and a maximum of seven members between the ages of 15- 29 years. At least one member should be from a National Youth Organization (NYO), one member from the NYC, where it exists and one member from the rural community. Gender balance is encouraged.
2. That there be two selected RYCs per country with one person being the RYC representative and the other person being the alternate. If the RYC is unavailable to attend a forum, the alternate will represent them.
3. That the selection process of RYCs be expanded to include a wider cross-section of youth. The youth organizations will be responsible for nominating four eligible candidates with the Ministry of Youth selecting the candidate from the pool nominated by the organizations.
4. Whereas CYP/CYPCC plays an active role in the ability to strengthen networks, it is recommended that RYC/CYP/CYPCC assist in developing the Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY) which creates additional support as well as a membership base for RYC.
5. Governments should provide financial and technical support to develop a marketing strategy in the branding of CYP/CYPCC in order to increase the level of awareness of the work carried out by CYP/CYPCC.
6. That CYP/CYPCC engage with other institutions for access to financial, technical, technological and production support for projects and programmes of the RYC and at least two Caucus meetings per year, which may serve as a source for capacity building, evaluation and programme planning. And also where the funds allocated by CYP/CYPCC are not sufficient to fulfill programmes and projects geared towards achieving the four strategic areas.
7. That CYP/CYPCC establish a Commonwealth Youth Corps for present and past members.

8. That CYP/CYPCC and Governments provide the RYCs with appropriate identification mechanisms, initially an identification card, Certificate of appointment and issuing of information to immigration of the countries to which RYCs are to travel, to assist in building the profile of RYCs and to facilitate easier travel.
9. The establishment of a virtual bulletin or chat room where members can share information and experiences. This medium would seek to improve the networking of Regional Youth Caucus members.
10. CYP/CYPCC and Governments should provide sponsorship to RYCs to cover full cost of the CYP/CYPCC diploma course to ensure professionalism in the work of the RYCs.
11. Governments should provide to employers a programme of travel or agenda for the RYCs and an official letter of appointment as well as follow up since some meetings may be ad hoc.
12. Governments should provide a stipend in the event that RYCs experience financial losses from their jobs in attending forums.



*Appendix A*

**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME: CARIBBEAN CENTRE  
REGIONAL YOUTH CAUCUS  
PROJECT AND ACTIVITY REPORT**

NAME:	DATE:
COUNTRY:	QUARTER:
ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
	E-MAIL:

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### 1 COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Title		
Origin		
Beneficiaries		
Partners	Lead organization	
	Youth organizations	
	Other organizations	
Duration		
Budget		
Theme	<b><u>Communication and Participation through Partnership</u></b>	
Priority Issue		
Goal		
Objective(s)		
Activities		
Action Needed		
Itemized Budget		

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**2 ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION**

Title		
Origin		
Beneficiaries		
Partners	Lead organization	
	Youth organizations	
	Other organizations	
Duration		
Budget		
Theme	<b><u>Empowering youth to be Vibrant, Vocal, and Visible</u></b>	
Priority Issue		
Goal		
Objective(s)		
Activities		
Action Needed		
Itemized Budget		

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### **3 PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION**

Title		
Origin		
Beneficiaries		
Partners	Lead organization	
	Youth organizations	
	Other organizations	
Duration		
Budget		
Theme	<b><u><i>Youth in Action, Charting the future</i></u></b>	
Priority Issue		
Goal		
Objective(s)		
Activities		
Action Needed		
Itemized Budget		

**Group one; Project 1**

**Strategic Priority: Communication and Partnership**

**Theme: Communication and Participation through Partnership**

**PROJECT OUTLINE**

Title	<i>Youth in Enterprise</i>	
Origin	<i>Regional Youth Caucus Meeting (St. Kitts &amp; Nevis)</i>	
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth aged 15-29</li> <li>• Unemployed persons</li> <li>• Communities within area of enterprise</li> </ul>	
Partners	Lead organization	<i>National RYC working group</i>
	Youth organizations	<i>All youth organizations.</i>
	Other organizations	<i>The National Youth Council or similar organization and NGOs, Ministry of Youth and/or Labor, Department of Youth</i>
Duration	<i>5 Months</i>	
Budget		
Theme	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>1. Communication and Participation through Partnership</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>“Money in my pocket”</u></b></p>	
Priority Issue	<i>Youth empowerment through education on enterprise development</i>	
Goal	<i>To spearhead a movement to have young aspiring entrepreneurs as well as young unemployed youth with vocational skills.</i>	
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training twenty young people in order to develop a business plan and implement that plan.</li> <li>• Create public awareness of sustainable enterprise development</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing alternatives for youth engaged in illicit activities</li> <li>• Increasing self –esteem and promoting a better self-identity</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing and Promotion of Programs via different mediums including print and electronic media.</li> <li>• Recruitment and selection of candidates: including screening around common themes.</li> <li>• Training: Basic Program conducted with the inclusion of the plan development on the final date</li> <li>• Final projects selected and submitted to CYP/CYPCC for funding</li> <li>• Grants Awarded and groups monitored</li> <li>• Mid-way point advanced training conducted and final mentorship continued.</li> </ul>
Action Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tailoring of project details to suit individual countries</i></li> <li>• <i>Initial communication of the project idea to relevant partners</i></li> <li>• <i>Sourcing of funding for the project</i></li> <li>• <i>Identification of interested workshop facilitators and Mentors</i></li> </ul>
Itemized Budget	

## Group one; Project 2

### Strategic Priority: Communication and Partnership

#### Theme: Communication and Participation through Partnership

Title	<i>Hot Spots (Sporting for Interaction)</i>	
Origin	<i>Regional Youth Caucus Meeting (St. Kitts &amp; Nevis)</i>	
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth aged 15-29</li> </ul>	
Partners	Lead Organization	<i>RYC Representative</i>
	Youth organizations	<i>All youth and sporting organizations.</i>
	Other organizations	<i>The National Youth Council or similar organization and NGOs, Ministry of Youth and/or Sports, Department of Youth</i>
Duration	<i>6 Months</i>	
Budget	<i>Development: Youth for Sports, Sports for youth and the future through youth and sports.</i>	
Theme	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Communication and Participation through Partnership</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>“Development: Youth for Sports, Sports for youth and the future through youth and sports”</u></b></p>	
Priority Issue	<i>Curbing violent and illicit activity in hot spot communities</i>	
Goal	<i>Using sports as a method of holistically dealing with the hardcore issues within communities</i>	
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating social harmony in “Hot Spots”</li> <li>• Providing alternatives for youth (both sexes) engaged in illicit activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exposing them to job opportunities by developing the necessary environment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspiring community spirit</li> <li>• Increasing self –esteem and promoting a better self-identity</li> <li>• Finding and nurturing positive role models from “Hot Spots”</li> <li>• Advocating for the adoption and development of Commonwealth programs such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commonwealth Youth Clubs and Caribbean Coaching Youth Program or similar programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key liaison persons within “Hot Spots”</li> <li>• Conduct Challenge Matches in individual “Hot Spots”</li> <li>• Conduct necessary workshops for club and personal development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Workshop (Coaching methods, Conflict Resolution, Healthy lifestyle, Career Development)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Originate/Channel clubs into a “league” based on national environments.</li> </ul>
Action Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tailoring of project details to suit individual countries</i></li> <li>• <i>Initial communication of the project idea to relevant partners</i></li> <li>• <i>Sourcing of funding for the project</i></li> <li>• <i>RYC to organize and plan the timetable for the program provide guidance on its development as it evolves</i></li> </ul>
Itemized Budget	



## Group 3 Project 1

### Strategic Priority: Program Development, Implementation and Evaluation

Theme: Youth in Action, Charting the future

#### PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM – WITHOUT ITEMIZED BUDGET

Title	<i>Youth and Violence</i>	
Origin	<i>Regional Youth Caucus Meeting (St. Kitts &amp; Nevis)</i>	
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth aged 15-29</li> <li>• Unemployed persons</li> <li>• Communities where the project is implemented</li> <li>• Youth Departments, NYC's, NGO's, CBO's and FBO's</li> </ul>	
Partners	Lead organization	<i>National RYC working group</i>
	Youth organizations	<i>All youth organizations.</i>
	Other organizations	<i>The National Youth Council or similar organization and NGOs, Ministry of Youth and/or Labor, Department of Youth</i>
Duration	<i>Three (3) Months</i>	
Budget		
Theme	<b><u><i>Youth in Action, Charting the future</i></u></b>	
Priority Issue	<i>Youth and Violence</i>	
Goal	<i>Creating a violence free society</i>	
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce violence Among youth people</li> <li>• To foster a violence free society</li> <li>• To open the channel for unattached as well as physically challenged persons to participate in the youth Empowerment movement.</li> <li>• Create a positive alternative for youth</li> </ul>	

Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Poster/art, Poetry and Photography competition</u></b></li> <li>• Sell idea to targeted artists for them to perform on the day of closure, singing and promoting songs of peace</li> <li>• At the closing, there will be an exhibition for art pieces, poems and photographs</li> <li>• Peace messages will be Given by RYC and other Officials</li> <li>• The Campaign will have a duration of three months</li> </ul>
Action Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tailoring of project details to suit individual countries</i></li> <li>• <i>Initial communication of the project idea to relevant partners</i></li> <li>• <i>Sourcing of funding for the project</i></li> </ul>
Itemized Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

## **Group two; Project 1**

### **Strategic Priority: Advocacy and Representation**

**Theme: ‘Empowering youth to be Vibrant, Vocal, and Visible’**

#### **PROJECT OUTLINE**

Title	<i>Youth Consultations ‘Town Hall Style’</i>	
Origin	<i>Regional Youth Caucus Meeting (St. Kitts &amp; Nevis)</i>	
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth aged 15-29</li> <li>• Unemployed persons</li> <li>• Communities where the project is implemented</li> <li>• Youth Departments, NYCs, NGOs, CBOs and FBOs</li> </ul>	
Partners	Lead organization	<i>National RYC working group</i>
	Youth organizations	<i>All youth organizations.</i>
	Other organizations	<i>The National Youth Council or similar organization and NGOs, Ministry of Youth and/or Labor, Department of Youth</i>
Duration	<i>5 Months</i>	
Budget		
Theme	<b><u>‘Empowering youth to be Vibrant, Vocal, Visible’</u></b>	
Priority Issue		
Goal		
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To become aware of the critical issues affecting the youth through effective dialogue</li> <li>• Establish opportunities for youth participation by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promoting CYP/CYPCC and the role of CYP/CYPCC</li> <li>○ Submitting proposals to Government</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Embarking on consultations with National Youth Councils</li> <li>○ Including all recognized Youth Groups in consultations</li> <li>○ Identifying the significance of Youth who are not attached to any recognized Youth institution and creating the forum for their concerns to be entertained.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase youth involvement in planning and governance at all levels through representation</li> <li>● Reach out to the unattached youth (i.e. youth not attached to any organized youth institution).</li> <li>● Inform the older population of current youth issues</li> <li>● To identify positive role models and use them to articulate the CYP/CYPCC principles and values</li> <li>● Make the CYP/CYPCC more appealing to the youth by highlighting the benefits and areas for participation</li> <li>● Reach a wider population of youth by utilizing the mass media</li> <li>● <b><u>Increase the self esteem among youth in our (target areas)</u></b></li> </ul>
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Town Hall meetings (in areas where critical issues affecting youth have not been identified/articulated)</li> <li>● Outreach Campaign to unattached youth</li> <li>● Public Awareness campaign on the CYP/CYPCC principles and values</li> <li>● Radio and Television talk shows for youth hosted by youth</li> <li>● SUGGESTION Essay competitions for youth in rural areas who may not have access to Radio or Television</li> <li>● Project writing workshops</li> <li>● Sessions with motivational Speakers</li> </ul>
Action Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Tailoring of project details to suit individual countries</i></li> <li>● <i>Initial communication of the project idea to relevant partners</i></li> <li>● <i>Sourcing of funding for the project</i></li> </ul>
Itemized Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>



**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME  
CARIBBEAN CENTRE**

**SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
MEETING OF THE REGIONAL ADVISORY  
BOARD 2005**

**ST. KITTS MARRIOTT RESORT, FRIGATE BAY  
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS  
OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2005**

# **SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Regional Advisory Board (RAB) for the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) Caribbean Centre was held from of October 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis.

The decisions and recommendations of the RAB are summarised as follows:

## **I. CYP COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**

1. CYP should streamline how it communicates with Member States (CYP reiterated that it will issue correspondence to member states via mail (originals) and electronic mail, copy such correspondence to the Youth Director when she/he is not the principal recipient, issue faxed copies and follow up with phone calls)
2. Member states will provide CYP with updated contact details to facilitate the communication flow described above;
3. CYP should ensure with London Office that communication flow especially involving RYCs is also respected, essentially so Directors of Youth are always kept in the loop.
4. CYP should update its public awareness and marketing strategy in order to attract and target more young people both in terms of what CYP does, and also so young people can offer their talents and networks as part of the wider youth participation strategy.
5. Commonwealth Day publications would be enhanced by Member States providing information on their observance and relevant photographs to CYP to include in reports and releases

## **II. CARIBBEAN YOUTH DAY**

CYD should continue to be observed annually and that CYP will suggest CYD themes out of programme objectives and send information to member states at least a year in advance.

## **III. GOVERNANCE, FINANCE, FINANCIAL REPORTS PLEDGES**

The RAB noted the status of finances and pledges and in particular that CYP financial status could possibly impact technical support to Member States, for which requests were increasing disproportionately to the available income. The RAB also noted efforts and commitments of respective Member States to settle outstanding arrears and payments to CYP.

## **IV. PAYE AND YDI**

The RAB recommended that PAYE should:

1. Continue, with amendments to take into account the MDGs/UN Goals, CARICOM's Regional Strategy for Youth Development and an asset based approach
2. Be revised to consider region-specific issues such as CSME-
3. Provide for the management of youth partnership issues.
4. Address youth delinquency/crime as a strategic objective.
5. Include mechanisms by which youth can hold themselves accountable for their own actions.
6. Contain a built-in mechanism for annual monitoring and evaluation
7. Address a strong advocacy agenda empowerment.
8. Provide built-in performance measurement criteria for application to the relevant implementing interests (Governments/CYP/PCO etc.)
9. Emphasise the civic roles and responsibilities of young people (nation-building).
10. Move with urgency to complete the YDI as a standard assessment tool for youth development.

## **V. REGIONAL YOUTH CAUCUS**

The RAB agreed:

1. That diplomatic recognition of RYCs would have to be determined by individual Governments;
2. That structures be established at national levels which are specifically geared towards assisting RYCs in developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on RYC activities. The RYCs will spearhead this process in each country in collaboration with the respective departments of youth and National Youth Organizations. National RYC structures should have a minimum of five and a maximum of seven members between the ages of 15- 29 years. At least one member should be from a National Youth Organization (NYO), one member from the NYC, where it exists and one member from the rural community. Gender balance is encouraged.
3. That two RYCs be selected per country with one person being the RYC representative and the other person being the alternate so that where the RYC is unavailable to attend a forum, the alternate will represent the country.
4. That the selection process of RYCs be expanded to include a wider cross-section of youth, with youth organizations being responsible for nominating four eligible candidates and the Ministry of Youth selecting the candidate from the pool nominated by the organizations.
5. Governments should provide financial and technical support to develop a marketing strategy in the branding of CYPCC in order to increase the level of awareness of the work carried out by CYPCC.
6. That CYPCC should engage with other institutions to access financial, technical, technological and other support for RYCs to implement projects and programmes and to convene at least two Caucus meetings per year, which may serve as a source for capacity building, evaluation and programme planning
7. That CYPCC establish a Commonwealth Youth Corps for present and past members.
8. That CYPCC and Governments provide the RYCs with appropriate identification mechanisms, initially an identification card, Certificate of appointment and issuing of

information to immigration of the countries to which RYCs are to travel, to assist in building the profile of RYCs and to facilitate easier travel.

9. That CYP should establish a virtual bulletin or chat room where members can share information and experiences as a means of improving networking of Regional Youth Caucus members.
10. CYPCC and Governments provide sponsorship to RYCs to cover full cost of the CYP diploma course to ensure professionalism in the work of the RYCs.
11. *For official RYC travel*, Governments should provide employers with a programme of travel or agenda for the RYCs and an official letter of appointment as well as follow up since some meetings may be *ad hoc*.
12. Governments should provide a stipend in the event that RYCs experience loss of remuneration when they have to attend youth forums.

## VI. YOUTH NETWORKS

The RAB:

1. Agreed that CYP and CARICOM should lend support to revitalize the Caribbean Youth Movement, as enunciated in the RYC Report, once a youth-inclusive, representational and democratic proposal came from young people and youth networks.
2. Agreed that CYP had a continuing role to play in supporting the establishment and strengthening of NYCs noting that request for NYC support should emanate as an NYC-driven initiative with minimal government interference.

## VII. YOUTH PARTICIPATION

In terms of enhancing youth participation, engagement and positive awareness, **RAB further agreed that** CYP should:

1. Use all media, TV, printed materials, digital, audio and performing arts to reach youth
2. Explore ways to reach grass-root youth and unattached youth who need to be targeted for motivation and life skills training.
3. Develop mechanisms to facilitate young people establishing and managing their own youth (country and community) networks.
4. Develop and implement more programmes that promote self-awareness in youth
5. In conjunction with Member Governments and others partners develop a scheme of Caribbean Youth Awards to recognise innovations and talents of individual young men and women.
6. Together with Governments should give special focus to research studies and programmes that address the marginalisation, vulnerability and special circumstances of the Caribbean male.



## **IX. YOUTH MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS**

The RAB agreed that CYP should:

1. Provide technical assistance for new Youth Directors to develop their capacity to manage youth Departments.
2. Seek mechanisms to strengthen the research unit/ research capability within Youth Departments.
3. Provide support for attachments and internships for Directors and Youth Officers to more established Departments such as Barbados.
4. Develop and disseminate coaching, mentoring, assessment and evaluation tools.
5. Explore the delivery of a certified Trainers of Trainers / programme to create a cadre of expertise in countries for sustainable youth development within CYP programme areas.
6. Provide direction on what could be an ideal youth (agency) Department or Ministry: resources; staff, equipment, systems, ratio of youth workers to youth population; relevance to economic and social (integrated national) agenda, develop job description etc;
7. Document best practices/ models and success stories in collaboration with departments of Youth Affairs of Member States for the general guidance of all member States

## **X. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Member States unanimously agreed that both CYP and Governments had a bigger role to play in transforming how youth development is managed and how youth work is positioned in the national landscape. The **RAB recommended** that CYP should:

1. Promote/ develop a Lecture Series targeting policy makers, private sector and high-level decision makers on youth development work
2. Convene a regional research symposium to invite academic and other debate on issues in and on Youth Development
3. Develop/ launch a research study on the impact of social exclusion on unattached youth
4. Publish a quarterly Journal of research, case studies and position papers on YD issues
5. Promote academic research as an investment in youth
6. Use the results of research to engage the private sector to market youth as assets and for them to make sustained investments in youth.
7. Provide for/ support the development of a regional research agenda and marketing strategies to increase and promote the status of youth work.
8. Serve as a clearing house for best practices and models in youth development, including matters of youth policy and functioning of youth councils, youth programmes and so and member states would provide CYP with appropriate data for the development and sharing of best practices.

## **XI. NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY**

The RAB:

1. Agreed that each country should ensure that the National Youth Policies are developed and implemented
2. Recommended that CYP develop and achieve agreement on an outline strategy (indicative action/activities) to support youth policy implementation efforts
3. Agreed that Governments would forward their Youth Policy papers to CYP for dissemination to assist other member States in policy development mandates.

## **XII. YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

The RAB recommended that CYP:

1. Create a robust enterprise education and awareness programme for schools to be made available to all member States, which would serve to create acceptance for youth enterprise development
2. Accept the offer of the Director of Youth, Barbados to make available to CYP is junior school youth enterprise awareness programme
3. Disseminate the programme to all Member countries to serve as a implementation model for youth enterprise education.
4. Conduct research and marketing on enterprise development and entrepreneurship
5. Document and develop case studies and best practices out of existing successful programmes such as YES Barbados.
6. Encourage countries (who have not done so) to develop a YED programme using the CYP model and support, and supported nationally by appropriate policy and incentives;
7. Continue to development of new modules and tools for new and existing entrepreneurs including using ICTs
8. Make better use of RYC's to market/deliver YED projects to grass-root communities
9. Develop a dedicated public awareness programme and instructional material on YED.
10. Convene a Youth Enterprise Donors Forum bringing together private sector and donor partners
11. Create mechanisms to support business the expansion and growth of youth businesses.

## **XIII. YOUTH WORK EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

The RAB recommended that CYP:

1. Continue developing the associate degree and undergraduate degree in Youth Work and work towards a doctoral degree in youth work;
2. Proceed vigorously with the design and implementation of competency standards;
3. Document best practices in youth work and provide a forum for connecting diplomates/ students with each other;

4. Explore partnerships options with the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) which is the regional platform for tertiary-level training institutions using ICTs to transfer knowledge and develop human resources;
5. Seek to facilitate scholarships for nationals to pursue the programme;
6. Explore the development /implementation of a youth development curriculum for secondary schools in the Region with the CXC.

#### **XIV. PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES (CARICOM)**

The RAB agreed:

1. On the need for closer collaboration with CYP and CARICOM in respect of the delivery of the regional youth development agenda and better managing resources available for youth development.
2. That the CARICOM Youth Desk and the CYP should meet and develop an MOU to reflect the RAB discussions for the further consideration of CYMM and CARICOM HoGs
3. That the agencies should collaborate to convene a Special Summit for Youth Ministers (Strategic Visioning Retreat) to discuss and agree on youth policy, programmes and priorities and to achieve consensus and support for intervention strategies and collaborative delivery mechanisms.

#### **XV. GOVERNANCE**

The RAB noted the progress of preparations for the hosting of CHOGM 2005 in Malta in October 2005, and as well as the status of preparations for CYMM 2006 to be held in the Bahamas for which a high turn out of Caribbean Directors and Ministers was specially requested.

#### **XVI. OTHER MATTERS – CYE AND RAB 2007**

**The RAB noted with appreciation:**

1. The offers from Directors of Youth of Belize, the British Virgin and Islands to be considered as hosts for the 2006 Youth Exchange
2. The offers from Directors of Youth of Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to host the RAB 2007 and that CYP will communicate with each country individually on hosting details to confirm the RAB 2007 venue.
3. That CYP would contact each country to work out specific details.

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION<sup>1</sup>

COUNTRY	YOUTH POLICY			
	FORMULATED	ENDORSED	BEING IMPLEMENTED	IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IN PLACE
Anguilla	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes being revised
Antigua & Barbuda	No	-	-	-
Bahamas	No	-	-	-
Barbados	No	-	-	-
Belize	Yes	Yes	No	Presently being revised
British Virgin Islands	Yes	Partially, draft being updated	Partially	Presently being designed
Cayman Islands	Yes	Yes	Partially	Yes. Not fully implemented but in the process
Dominica	Yes	Yes	Partially	Previous attempt unsuccessful. Presently being reconsidered.
Grenada	Yes	Yes	Partially	Presently being designed
Guyana	Yes	Yes	Partially	Presently being revised
Jamaica	Yes	By Cabinet, tabled in Parliament	Yes	Strategic Plan being finalised to go before cabinet by November, 2005 (finalized since then)
Montserrat	Yes	No	-	-
St Kitts & Nevis	Yes	No: In process	Partially	Currently being revised
St Lucia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Co-ordinating mechanisms to be activated
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Yes	Yes. Not by Cabinet	-	Revision to be done by Youth Commission
Trinidad & Tobago	Yes	By Cabinet	-	Project implementation unit being established

<sup>1</sup> Status as at RAB 2006, October 2005

Turks & Caicos	Yes – Draft Copy #1	No	No	Need consultation for final draft
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