



The Commonwealth Youth Programme & The International Award



*challenging
young people
everywhere*

The International Award: A Programme for All Young People

The Award is an exciting self-development programme available to all young people worldwide, equipping them with life skills to make a difference to themselves, their communities and the world. Anyone aged between 14 and 25 can experience challenge and adventure, acquire new skills and make new friends. The Award is in over 125 countries and currently has more than 700,000 active participants.



SERVICE

Encourages responsibility to the community through service projects such as AIDS awareness, conservation work, or specialised training such as life saving



SKILLS

Encourages the development of personal interests & life skills; participants choose from an almost unlimited range of activities from arts & crafts to computing



ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY

Encourages a spirit of adventure, resourcefulness, problem solving, an understanding of the environment & the importance of teamwork



PHYSICAL RECREATION

Encourages improved physical performance, perseverance & a healthy lifestyle; it could be a team or individual sport, but the emphasis is always on individual progress

Gold Residential Project

At Gold Level, young people must also undertake a residential project over a period of 5 days

The Reward



Age 14 +



Age 15 +



Age 16 +

The International Award & CYP: Complementary Goals

The Award and the Commonwealth Youth Programme have complementary goals and strategies that will collectively lead to a significant expansion of youth leadership capacity. We aim to develop skilled and engaged young citizens who contribute to the development of their communities and the wider world. Together, we can enable more young people to reach their potential and to bring about change in themselves and others.

The Award's focus on skills development, goal-setting, personal responsibility and community engagement is in line with the CYP's strategic programme areas. In addition, the Award is actively building youth networks around the world through Award Holders' Associations and its International Youth Forum.

The Award has a presence in more than 40 Commonwealth countries and last year nearly 600,000 young people in the Commonwealth participated in the Award Programme.



Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre



As an intervention designed to alleviate a post conflict situation in Northern Uganda, the government of Uganda and the Commonwealth agreed to an initial pilot project at the Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre (NUYDC) based in Koro Lapainat Camp, Gulu District.

A two day training course introducing the Award and emphasising its relevance for young people in conflict areas was carried out by The International Award Association for CYP officials and young people. The aim was to create an opportunity for young people from Northern Uganda to benefit from the training offered by the Award Programme. This was offered through the CYP's Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre.

Despite the challenges faced by young people from this area, by 31st March 2008, 126 of them had enrolled in the Programme. Most of them came from the centre but others were from nearby schools. Many of the participants have been carrying out service projects touching the lives of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) at the IDP camps.

Y-FIN Project, Solomon Islands

Y-FIN ('Youth Finance') is a joint project that will facilitate the development of a strong local partnership, benefiting a large number of young people and their communities. Starting in June 2008, it invites groups of young people to establish, operate and then wind up a micro-enterprise whilst completing the Bronze Level of the Award and participating in CYP programmes.



The proposed features of the Y-Fin Project include:

- 🌀 A micro-enterprise and savings scheme for young people.
- 🌀 An education programme (encompassing income generation projects, savings, budgeting, leadership and micro-enterprise management).
- 🌀 Preparation of a business plan and the raising of capital through selling of shares.
- 🌀 The voluntary support of host organisations and stakeholders.
- 🌀 All Y-Fin members will undertake their Bronze Level Award with guidelines to maximise the link between the four Sections of the Award and the CYP goals.
- 🌀 Each Y-Fin group will complete their qualifying Award Adventurous Journey within the first eight weeks of their Y-Fin membership as a means of promoting strong team work as well as giving them an immediate sense of achievement.

Consultation and information meetings with key potential stakeholder groups will be undertaken in 2008.

The International Award: Transforming Lives

The Award has been transforming lives of participants and their communities since 1956. Both the philosophy and the four-section format have proved resilient, attractive and adaptable to many cultures, languages and climates. The Award remains as relevant as ever with record levels of interest from participants and partner organisations. The International Award is not a membership organisation and works in partnership with others to offer the Award to young people.

"The success of the Award in encouraging young people to develop into responsible, active citizens, contributing positively to the development of themselves and their communities, prompted the CYP South Pacific Centre to agree to work in partnership with the Award in order to ensure that thousands of young people and their communities in the Pacific can also benefit from this exceptional programme. The DEA and CYP share common strengths and complementary goals and strategies that will collectively lead to a significant expansion of youth leadership and personal development outcomes for the young Pacific Islanders." Sushil Ram, Programme Manager, CYP Pacific Region

"I feel very positive about this Programme because it has kept me busy since the day I started it. I'm so glad I had the chance to participate in this global Award Programme which so many young people would wish to take part in but have never had the chance. The Award has shaped me in so many ways and I have become someone I never thought I would be." Tabo, Award participant in the Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre



"The Award is life changing. It got me off the streets and channelled my energies into something positive." Jorgianne, Jamaica

For more information and contact details for the Award in your country, contact Andrew McMenemy: amcm@intaward.org, or visit www.intaward.org

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