


2012

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARDS

for Excellence in Development Work





Do you know of a young person making a positive **difference** to the lives of other people in your community or country?

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) is inviting nominations for the 2012 Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work.

"More than any generation in history, young people are shaping the social, economic and political landscape that they will inherit. This is an exciting opportunity to recognise their energy, talent and commitment to development across the 54-nation Commonwealth" – Commonwealth Secretary-General.

We are looking for young people whose development work reflects the Commonwealth's Plan for Youth Empowerment to:

1. Promote youth participation in decision making
2. Promote economic empowerment of young people
3. Take action for equality between young women and men
4. Promote peaceful and democratic environments in which human rights flourish
5. Provide quality education for all
6. Improve access to information and communication technology
7. Promote health, development and values through sports and culture
8. Engage young people to protect the environment



Development work can be in any number of areas, including:

- Agriculture, small enterprise, skills training;
- Arts and culture;
- Education, peer education;
- Enterprise development/youth employment;
- Climate change/environment protection;
- Health and wellbeing, including work on HIV/AIDS ;
- Human rights and democracy;
- Information and communications technology;
- Journalism, media, public awareness;
- Peace building;
- Science and Technology;
- Sport for Development and Peace;
- Sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.

There will be five prizes per Commonwealth region with the top entry from each region receiving a Pan Commonwealth Award.

Criteria:

- The nominee person must have been engaged in development work for more than 12 months, either in a professional or voluntary capacity;
- The development work must be ongoing and in a Commonwealth member country;
- The nominee should not be older than 29 on 31 December 2012;
- Individuals cannot nominate themselves in a personal capacity;
- Nominees should give permission for their names to be forwarded;
- The winners must agree to take part in publicity generated by the Commonwealth.

Awards will be decided on the basis of:

- Quality of impact;
- Level of innovation/fresh approaches to problem-solving;
- Quality of achievement;
- Quality of the evidence provided.
- Sustainability: building the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs.

Nomination Process

To complete the nomination form please visit:
<http://www.yourcommonwealth.org/cya>

You will be required to provide the following information:

- Details about yourself;
- Details about the person you are nominating;
- Why you think the nominee deserves to win;
- A description of the development work and how it makes a positive difference to the lives of others;
- Areas in which the development work falls;
- How winning the award will make a difference to the work of your nominee.

Applications open on Commonwealth Day March 12 2012 and close on July 31 2012.

FAQ for the CW Youth Awards for Excellence in Development work

Who funds the awards?

The Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work is funded by the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) of the Commonwealth Secretariat. The CYP works with 54 Commonwealth member countries through four regional centres based in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

How many awards are given each year?

Twenty awards will be given each year, comprising four Pan Commonwealth awards and 16 regional awards.

What will the winners receive?

The regional award winners will receive a £1,000 grant, a trophy and a certificate. The Pan Commonwealth award winners will receive £3,000, a trophy, and a certificate. The four Pan Commonwealth winners will be invited to receive their awards at an official ceremony.

Who is eligible to receive the award?

The award will be given to winning nominees aged between 15 and 29 years. Grants will be awarded to advance the work of the winners' projects who will liaise closely with the CYP on the best way to use the funding.

How will know if my nomination has been received?

We will respond to each nomination received with a confirmation email.





FAQ (continued)

How will award winners be notified?

Entrants will be contacted directly. If you do not hear from us, it means that your nomination has not been successful. Award winners will be officially announced on 1 November 2012.

What if I do not know the contact details of the person I am nominating?

Please make every effort to provide as much contact information as possible. We require either an email address or telephone number.

How can I submit additional information on nominees?

Additional information can be uploaded in the space provided on the entry form.

Should I mail or fax my nomination form?

No. Nominations can only be received via the email link provided. If you are having problems the online form, you may cut and paste the information in a word document and send to the email address provided.

Who will decide on the winners?

Nominated persons will be shortlisted at the CYP regional centres in Zambia for Africa, India for Asia; Guyana for the Caribbean and the Solomon Islands for the Pacific region. For these purposes Cyprus, Malta and the UK are included in the Africa region and Canada is included in the Caribbean region.

The regional panel will be comprised of two government representatives, two representatives for the Regional Youth Caucus and the Regional Director.

The Commonwealth awards are determined by a panel under the chair of the Deputy Secretary-General. The panel will be comprised of representatives of Commonwealth Governments (through High Commissions), Commonwealth Civil Society and Youth leaders.

For more information please email:

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