

Most Urgent
A. put up
04.12.2017

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
International Organizations Wing
Dhaka

Implementation
Dirc (A/Int. Org.)
Please put up
immediately,
A/Int. Org.
4/12/17

No: 19.00.0000.225.41. 323/15- 618

03 December 2017

Subject: Nomination for Commonwealth Youth Award

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a letter received from the Commonwealth Secretariat seeking nominations for "Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work 2018".

02. The awards are presented to a total of 16 (sixteen) young people (aged between 15-29 years) each year, four each from the four Commonwealth regions (Africa & Europe, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, and Pacific) for their excellence in development work. Four young people will be selected from each of the four regions as regional finalist. One exceptional entrant from the four finalists will be recognized as Commonwealth Young Person of the year.

The weblink for online registration for the Commonwealth Youth Awards is:
<http://commonwealth-youthexcellence.awardsplatform.com/>

03. In view of the above, the Ministry of Youth and Sports is requested to take necessary action to complete registration of nominees for the Commonwealth Youth Awards 2018 **online by 14 December 2017**. This is for kind information and necessary action at the Ministry's end.

যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর (বাস্তবায়ন শাখা)

এছবি ক্যাডার স্মারক
কো-অর্ডিনেটর

ক্রমিক	২	পেশা	
নাম		স্বাক্ষর	
তারিখ		স্বাক্ষর	

Mansur 03/12/17
Mansur Khan Choudhury
Senior Assistant Secretary (IO)
Tel: 955 4231, Fax: 957 2259
E-mail: mansurin.choudhury@mofa.gov.bd

Secretary
Ministry of Youth and Sports
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka 1000

Copy for kind information
Director General
Office of the Director General
Department of Youth Development
Jubo Bhaban
108, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.

যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর
বাস্তবায়ন, মনিটরিং ও যুবসংগঠন শাখা

স্মারকনং ৩৪.০১.০০০০.০২৬.৪৯.০০১.১৭- ১১৬৭

তারিখ: ০৩/১২/১৭

- সদয় জ্ঞাতার্থে ও কার্যার্থে:
- ০১। পরিচালক/প্রকল্প পরিচালক, (সকল), যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা। E/Int-Page-113
 - ০২। উপ-সচিব(যুব), যুব ও ক্রীড়া মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
 - ০৩। অধ্যক্ষ, কেন্দ্রীয় মানব সম্পদ উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র, যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর, সান্তার, ঢাকা।
 - ০৪। প্রোগ্রামার, যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা (পত্রটি ওয়েব সাইটে প্রকাশের অনুরোধসহ)।
 - ০৪। উপ-পরিচালক, যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর (সকল) জেলা।
 - ০৫। কো-অর্ডিনেটর/ডেপুটি কো-অর্ডিনেটর, যুব প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, (সকল) কেন্দ্র।
 - ০৬। মহাপরিচালক মহোদয়ের ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী, যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা। ইহা মহাপরিচালক মহোদয়ের সদয় অবগতির জন্য।
 - ০৭। অফিস কপি।

মোঃ আতিকুল্লাহ মান্নান খান
সহকারী পরিচালক(বাস্তবায়ন)
ফোন: ৯৫৫৯৮৩৪

24 November 2017

Your Excellency,

**Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work 2018
Call for Nominations**

The annual *Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work* recognises young people whose commitment to development work within a Commonwealth country has made a difference to the lives of others. This special edition of the awards will coincide with the Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) preceding the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) in London, April, 2018 under the theme "Towards a Common Future". The 2018 awards aim to raise the profile of young people and highlight the contribution they are making towards developing a fairer, sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous future for the Commonwealth - the four sub themes of the CHOGM 2018. The awards also offer young people (aged 15-29) an opportunity to highlight their contribution, inspire others to get involved, and receive international recognition and support for their development work.

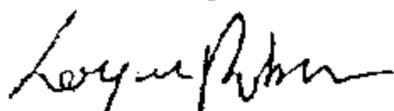
We are looking for young people aged between 15 and 29 years, who have demonstrated the importance of youth participation in key areas such as poverty alleviation, conflict resolution and prevention, democracy and environmental preservation and contributing to the overall achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

There will be 16 finalists (4 from each Commonwealth regions), where each will receive £1,000 to contribute to their development work. Out of the 16 finalists, there will be 4 top entries from each region receiving an additional £2000 (to make a total of £3,000 each) to contribute to their development work. From among the top 4 regional winners, an overall Pan Commonwealth Winner will be decided, who will receive an additional £3000 (to make a total of £5,000) and to be named the Commonwealth Young Person of the Year 2018. We will also fly the top 4 regional winners to London to collect their awards at an official ceremony in London, United Kingdom during the Commonwealth Youth Forum, 17 April 2018.

To ensure a varied selection of nominees from each Commonwealth country, I kindly encourage your excellency to share this information accordingly and make sure your country's young people gets nominated. It is important to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by young people to development and democracy in the Commonwealth, and illustrate the depth and breadth of talent, commitment and creativity that exists among its young people.

For more information on the Commonwealth Youth Awards, please see the attached Concept Note and for nominations link, please visit the website at: <https://commonwealth-youthexcellence.awardsplatform.com/>. For any further information, please email Lawrence Muti at: L.muli@commonwealth.int.

Yours sincerely,



Layne Robinson

Head, Social Policy Development Section

+44 20 7747 6589

L.robinson@commonwealth.int

Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work 2018

'Towards a Common Future'

Concept note

November 2017

Background

Young people constitute more than 60% of the population of the Commonwealth; their empowerment is essential to realising a fairer, more prosperous, secure and sustainable future for all its citizens. The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) works with youth leaders, member governments, youth workers and other stakeholders to engage and empower young people and enhance their contribution to sustainable development. The work of the CYP is anchored on the belief that empowered young people have the potential to shift from 'business as usual' towards making considerable social, economic and environmental impacts that ultimately lead to transformative change. As such, it is vital to ensure young people realise their individual potential, and to recognise and nurture their ability to contribute to their countries' development, and the success of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Heads of Governments agree on the major political, economic and social priorities in the Commonwealth, while the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders work to ensure that those priorities are implemented. Young people throughout the Commonwealth make significant contributions to development and democracy, the two pillars of the Commonwealth Secretariat's work. Unfortunately, their contribution does not always receive the acknowledgement and recognition necessary to encourage significant investments in youth led development.

Commonwealth Youth Awards 2018

The Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work 2018 aim to raise the profile of young people and highlight the contribution they are making towards developing a fairer, more sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous future for the Commonwealth. These special awards will coincide with the Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) preceding the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London, April, 2018 under the theme "Towards a Common Future" and will highlight the contribution that young people are making throughout the Commonwealth, in areas such as poverty alleviation, conflict resolution and prevention, democracy and environmental preservation. The Commonwealth Youth Awards give international, regional and national recognition and support to those young men and women who have demonstrated young people's capacity and potential to make positive contributions to their communities, nations and the world at large. Young people are not passive beneficiaries of development and spectators to programmes and of policies that affect their development, but rather are integrally involved in the process of change as they continue to work side by side with decision makers as key actors and stakeholders contributing to national development.

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Objectives of the Commonwealth Youth Awards 2018

The objectives of the Commonwealth Youth Awards are to:

- Highlight the contribution young people are making to promote the common goal of a future built on fairness, peace, prosperity and sustainability and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).
- Acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by young people to overall development and democracy goals in the Commonwealth;
- Create an environment which will encourage and sustain investments in youth led development;
- Illustrate the depth and breadth of talent, commitment and creativity that exists among young people across the Commonwealth by highlighting nominees' success stories;
- Motivate, encourage and challenge young people (aged 15-29) to set high standards for their work/service at community, national, regional or international levels;

The Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work 2018, given at the Pan Commonwealth and regional levels to young people aged 15-29 whose development work will be contributing to showcase good practice in 2018's Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting (CHOGM) theme "Towards a Common Future" and specifically the 4 sub themes:

1. A Fairer Future

A fairer future is one which strives to promote a just, equitable and inclusive society for all. It envisions the promotion of democracy and governance and promotes the development of accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. It works to promote gender parity and creates an enabling environment to equal access to basic services such as health, education, gainful employment and decent work to ensure all Commonwealth citizens are empowered to reach their full potential as mirrored in SDGs 3, 4, 5, 10 and 16. Young people's role in promoting and protecting democratic principles and ensuring that institutions of democracy operate in an equitable and inclusive manner are paramount to realising a fairer future by reducing inequality within and among Commonwealth countries. The 2018 youth awards aim to recognise young people who are safeguarding youth rights and justice for all young people, regardless of age, gender, religion, colour and status in society. The award will acknowledge young people who are working to ensure youth are key agents of change and have an independent and autonomous voice in decision-making processes that affect them. It aims to recognise initiatives that support the empowerment of girls and women, those supporting the protection and recognition of minority and marginalised groups, and those celebrating a culture of diversity.

2. A Sustainable Future

Many of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of climate change are found in the Commonwealth. Consequently, a more sustainable future which reduces vulnerabilities, and strengthens resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards is integral to sustaining all living things. The youth award recognises young people who have developed initiatives to disrupt everyday risk traps in their communities, thereby mitigating and reducing the impact of disasters leading to transformative outcomes. It aims to highlight the work of young people who are contributing to SDGs 7, 12,13,14 and 15 through the development of clean energy solutions, those working to protect marine and coastal ecosystems and initiatives that promote the conservation and restoration of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems, while at the same time ensuring sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. As such, young people who are tackling climate change and protecting the environment, through initiatives or enterprises that promote the growth of blue and green economies are encouraged to apply.

3. A Peaceful Future

For a future culture of peace within and among Commonwealth nations, the role of young people in promoting peaceful and cohesive societies is integral. The award aims to highlight and further support the work of young people who are tackling and transforming violent extremism, while promoting overall peacebuilding, whether at the local or national level. The 2018 awards also call for initiatives that encourage global citizenship and an appreciation of cultural diversity, those that work to eliminate all forms of violence and exploitation against all girls and women as well as initiatives that seek to develop new and strengthen existing institutions that promote a culture of peace, all of which contribute to SDGs 4, 5 and 16. It seeks to further support the work of young people in the commonwealth who themselves strive to empower their peers to meaningfully engage in all social, political, and economic processes that are susceptible to the threats of the 21st century.

4. A Prosperous Future

A prosperous future is one that promotes intergenerational equity and strengthen economic and social policies that aim to eradicate poverty and endeavour to find synergy between economic growth and environmental sustainability. At its core, it is about “doing more and better with less”, which will require commonwealth nations to increase resource efficiency in consumption and production, promote food security and overall human well-being in both rural and urban spaces, all of which will lead to successful outcomes related to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 11 and 12. A prosperous future is also about economic environments that stimulate inclusive growth and development, enhance the ease and cost of doing business, provide enabling environments for young entrepreneurs to leverage business opportunities within ethical supply chains and promotes education that enhances capabilities of young people for gainful employment and decent work through skills

building, competencies, qualifications that are also relevant to the demands of a rapidly changing labour market and overall globalisation trends. The Awards will also acknowledge young Commonwealth citizens working to promote sustainable urban living by enabling people to advance socially and economically, without harming the environment. As such, initiatives that encourage the creation of youth-friendly entrepreneurship ecosystems that allow young people's ideas to flourish and create sustainable businesses are encouraged to apply. The awards also aim to further support young people who are working to address barriers to trade that impact youth and overall improving the ease of doing business for young entrepreneurs to ensure prosperity for all within commonwealth nations.

Awards Process

There will be four finalists per Commonwealth region with the top entry receiving the Regional Winner Award and the top regional winner receiving the Pan Commonwealth Award and to be named the Commonwealth Young Person of the Year 2018. The 16 Regional finalists will each receive a £1,000 grant, trophy and a certificate. The 4 Regional Winners will receive an additional £2,000 (a total of £3,000) a trophy and a certificate. The Pan Commonwealth Winner will receive an additional £2000 (a total of £5,000) a trophy and a certificate. The 4 Regional Winners will be invited to receive their awards at an official ceremony in London, United Kingdom during Commonwealth Youth Forum, 16-18 April, 2018.

Criteria

- Nominees must have been engaged in development work for more than 12 months, either in a professional or voluntary capacity;
- Nominees must be Commonwealth citizens, and the development work focusing on the SDGs must be taking place in a Commonwealth member country;
- Nominees should not be older than 29 on 31 December of the award year; and
- Award Winners must agree to take part in publicity generated by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Youth Council.

Awards are decided on the basis of:

- Level of impact;
- Level of innovation/fresh approaches to problem-solving;
- Quality of achievement;
- Quality of the evidence provided;
- Sustainability.

Nomination Process

The nomination process is via an online website platform only. Self-nomination is permitted. Persons making nominations are required to provide the following information:

- Details about him/herself;
- Details about the person they are nominating;
- The development area in which the nominee's work falls;
- Why they believe the nominee deserves the award;
- A description of the development work and how it makes a positive difference to the lives of others;
- How winning the award will make a difference to the work of their nominee.

Selection Process

Nominated persons are shortlisted by regional panels convened by the Commonwealth Secretariat comprised of two government representatives, two youth/student representatives, a CSO/NGO representative and a member of staff from the Youth Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Regional and Commonwealth Young Persons of the Year 2018 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.

Timelines

- Applications open Monday, November 13, 2017;
- Applications close by Sunday, December 17 2017;
- Regional Shortlist and recommendations for the Awards completed by January 12th 2018;
- Commonwealth Adjudication Award Panel decide on final awards list by January 30, 2018;
- Regional Finalists formally announced by February 10th 2018; and
- Commonwealth Awards Ceremony during Commonwealth Youth Forum in London, United Kingdom, April 16-18, 2018.

Funding

The Awards (including prize money) are funded by the Commonwealth Youth Programme. However, sponsors/donors are being sought to allow the Awards and awards ceremony to be delivered on a greater scale, including more support for winners to share their work on global platforms, and to access mentors and professional development.

Publicity for Winners

Finalists for the Commonwealth Youth Awards and their work are highlighted in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Youth Forum, through a variety of traditional and new media forms, including in-house media such as the Commonwealth website, yourcommonwealth.org website, Facebook and Twitter.

Award winners are strongly profiled during Commonwealth Youth Forum Week, and throughout the subsequent year can be invited to participate in decision making meetings or events based on their area of development work e.g. the Commonwealth Youth Forum, Commonwealth Education Ministers meeting etc. The Youth Division continues to promote the Award winners throughout the year and monitor the growth or expansion of their development projects/work.