50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
50 YEARS IN PICTURES
THE EARL’S DIARY
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Front cover features participants cooking whilst on expedition. Bottom image from British International School, Lagos, Nigeria (photographer Steve Colliver).

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The International 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. To date, almost 6 million young people from over 100 countries have been motivated to undertake a variety of voluntary and challenging activities.

**THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD:**

challenging young people everywhere
T

hinking back over the last six months, I have realised how privileged I am to have the opportunity to meet so many of you involved with the Award around the world. Not only do we have the occasional visitor to our offices in London, but in the past few months I have had the pleasure of meeting so many of you - Award staff, volunteers and participants - in South Africa, Lithuania, the UK, the USA and at the Americas Regional Conference and annual CASC Adventurous Journey in Antigua. Meeting you brings the Award alive for me and makes me see what a difference the Award can make to young people in all parts of the world.

One of the visitors to Award House in July was Judge Anand Satyanand DCNZM, Governor General Designate of New Zealand. He had expressed an interest in learning more about the Award internationally and in the UK and we were able to arrange for him to visit two Award projects in and near London. One was an inner city youth centre in East London which uses the Award Programme as a framework for working with young people from many different ethnic communities and the other was a young offenders institute in Aylesbury. Both of these visits gave the judge a valuable insight into how the Award meets the needs of young people today in the UK.

Meeting participants and leaders of The President’s Award was one of the highlights of a holiday in South Africa in May with Shahab, my husband. We had a great time chatting to young people from all sorts of different backgrounds united by their involvement and commitment to the Award.

Not everyone has the same opportunities as I do to meet so many Award people face to face, but you can meet virtually through the web. In the Americas Region, they have set up a Yahoo group so that they can ‘chat’ to each other over the web. This instant communication is making a huge difference to the networking within the region with lots of ideas being shared and problems halved.

There is also the International Award website which includes the Share Ideas page, www.intaward.org. This page is on the main website and can be accessed by anyone. On there, you will find ideas and stories about all manner of things - for instance, Singapore’s Gold Award Holders Association; working with young people with special needs in Finland; an Open Award Centre in Jordan and ideas from around the world for Residential Projects. You can add your own ideas or use the web to get in touch with the Award leaders concerned.

The Award is a family of like minded individuals and, like all families, we should try to keep in touch as much as we can.

I look forward to welcoming many of you to Edinburgh in November for the 9th International Award Forum, when the family will come together to celebrate 50 years of the Award and look ahead to the next 50 years.
A MONTH IN THE LIFE OF THE EARL


JANUARY

Well this is it, 2006, the year the Award celebrates its 50th anniversary. It’s been a year since the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee began overseeing the ideas and plans for how the Award in Great Britain is going to try to mark the occasion. David Hempleman Adams, a Gold Award holder and explorer, is in charge of the team running the 50th activities. Soon we’ll find out if all the planning will have been worthwhile. We picked three principal themes: raising the profile and awareness of the changing face of the Award, celebrating service and partnership, and trying to leave a financial legacy for the future.

The first is intended to highlight the Award today, its relevance, its success and its diversity. The second focuses on the lesser known, but very important, service section of the Award as well as recognising the role of the volunteer and our delivery partners. With more than 200,000 participants in Great Britain, we estimate they give around 12 million hours of service per year, with volunteers giving a further two million hours. If we try to put a value on this of say £4.50 per hour, that’s equivalent to £65m or that for every £1 donated the Award gives back roughly £14 to the community in services in kind. Internationally we can easily add another 12 million hours from which you can make your own calculations.

FEBRUARY

16th February - The day the Award was launched in 1956, as reported by the Daily Mirror. Did we do anything to mark the actual anniversary? Well no, and as a matter of fact the date would have slipped past completely unnoticed if it hadn’t been for Gilly Shirazi, the conscience of the Award and now our Secretary General!

Went to a dinner in Portsmouth for the South East Region and sat on a table of ten, eight of whom had achieved Gold Awards, including yours truly, and Ben Murray Brown who recently attended the IGE in Hong Kong. The other six Award holders are all in senior positions within the Youth Service in various counties and obviously heavily influencing the role and affect of the Award.

The Hinduja brothers announced their not insignificant support of the Jubilee Fund at a reception to which a wide number of leaders from a variety of communities were invited. Hopefully this will help open up new opportunities for young people from various ethnic and religious communities to get involved in the Award. The Hinduja Fund is the £5-10m financial legacy we’re hoping to generate out of all the 50th anniversary celebrations over the next four years.

MARCH

Month dominated by visit to Australia for the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. I’m on the road for almost three weeks which is about two weeks longer than preferable! Although I was supposed to be there for the Commonwealth Games, managed to fit in several events for the Award.

Launched the Asia Pacific Region’s exhibition of photos not once but twice, first in Melbourne - just as a practice - and then in Sydney surrounded by Porsche cars. John Pascoe, International Trustee and chair of the Regional Advisory Board, tried to see how many times he could mention the word Porsche or one of their make of cars in his speech. Sponsors rather liked it, but I do hope it doesn’t catch on! Photos really very good; some taken by our very own Ono Bursary photographers Anindam Choudhury and Hayley Wood, as well as Gold Award holder Darren Soh and Award leader Dominic Chan. Some great stories as well, again demonstrating the changing face of the Award.

Managed to meet lots of participants and leaders at both events who all seemed pretty enthusiastic. Presented more than 30 Gold Awards at Government House, Melbourne to young people from all over Australia; they had some pretty good stories to tell, especially the young people with disabilities.

There were a couple of fundraising events in Melbourne and Sydney, which couldn’t have been more different. Larry Anthony, the Australian Award Chairman, managed to persuade the federal government to top up the funding of a new hotel for the Award. Larry seemed very happy that the new hotel would be called the "HRH Suites Australian Award Centre".
government to present a cheque for AUS$600,000. The Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Sandra Nori, who is responsible for The Award in NSW, took me to Dubbo to introduce me to a group of Aborigine ladies whom she has persuaded to become Award leaders within their community. If it works it could provide a major opportunity for a great many young people. Back in Britain, participants helped plant 500 trees from the Woodland Trust to mark the anniversary, as well as providing a valuable conservation service.

**APRIL**

Brief visit to the Netherlands for an EMAS youth event in Bernheze, which brought together young people from around the region, primarily to discuss how to set up and run an Award holders’ association. Princess Maxima, wife of the Crown Prince, was a huge hit when she attended the Award ceremony at which about 30 Silver and Gold Awards were presented following some very good talks on what they’d done.

Visited a very original scheme just starting at the Royal Military Academy in Breda, where some of the cadets have been volunteered to be expedition leaders, run training courses and ultimately assess groups. Also visited the Jan van Brabant College to see what some of their participants were doing for their Award. Great excitement as a number of their students had received their Gold Awards the previous evening, the first students from the college to do so. Some varied and pretty imaginative activities. One girl was standing behind a table groaning with trophies and her Bronze Award. Apparently she had taken up triathlons as her physical activity, won the national under-16s title and numerous other competitions, was runner-up in the national seniors and is determined to win it, but has had to drop her Award.

**MAY**

Events programme beginning to get into swing; met some very exhausted, but exhilarated teams who had successfully completed the Three Peaks Challenge, which involved climbing Ben Nevis (Scotland), Scafell Pike (England) and Snowdon (Wales) in less than 24 hours. The girls from the International Secretariat gamely entered a team. The winners were an elderly group of Award enthusiasts and Award holders, two of whom had been up Everest and quite frankly should know better, yet they achieved the feat in 23 hours and 10 minutes!

Two weeks later back in Wales for their 50th Anniversary special Celtic Challenge. This pitted groups of Award participants from around Wales in a series of different leadership, teambuilding and skill tests, physical as well as cerebral. Great mix of participants from all sorts of backgrounds, ages and abilities.

For the purposes of managing the Award in Britain, England is divided into seven regions plus Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. When planning the year I thought that between my father and me we could visit each part. It was a nice idea, but he picked one and left me with the other nine! In addition, and of course entirely deliberately, I will actually end up visiting each of the International Award’s regions.

This month’s overseas visit was to Macedonia, although not specifically connected with the Award. I met the young people involved in the British Council’s Blue Sky project, who are now embarking on establishing and running the International Award in their country. They seem to have found a very competent and varied group of individuals to form a committee and already have an enthusiastic network of young people eager to participate and lead - great potential.

As for the rest of the 50th plans, there is good and bad news. The fundraising events are doing well so far with income above expectations, although inevitably a number of the original ideas are falling away. As we enter the busiest phase who knows what might occur?

Look out for the second part of the Earl’s Diary in the next issue of Award World.
MEANWHILE, CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD INCLUDED...

CAPE TOWN COCKTAIL PARTY

In May, The British High Commissioner to South Africa, The Right Honourable Paul Boateng and his wife, Janet, hosted a 50th Anniversary celebratory cocktail party at their residence in Bishops Court, Cape Town. The Award family was warmly welcomed by the High Commissioner who said, “I have seen for myself at first hand the President’s Award for Youth Empowerment Trust’s work here in South Africa.. the enthusiasm for the Award Programme is both moving and inspirational.” The International Award Association was represented by International Trustee Dr Judith Dean and Africa Regional Director Craig Andrew, who both addressed the invited guests.

The event saw 15 ecstatic young people from a community youth group in a disadvantaged area of Cape Town receiving their Bronze Awards. One of the group, Ebrahim Fredricks, shared powerfully with those present his experiences of the Award Programme and its impact on his life. Testimonies from a prison participant and a school participant were also delivered.

Guests were entertained by the Drakenstein Correctional Centre Adult Choir. The 50th Anniversary was certainly celebrated in style!

Martin Scholtz, South Africa Director

HIV/AIDS AWARENESS

The Africa Regional Office have initiated an HIV/AIDS community practical service to HIV/AIDS shelters or hospitals during the month of July.

At the end of the week’s voluntary community service Award participants and NAA office staff planted an indigenous tree to remember the victims of AIDS and also to signify new life, hope for the future and opportunity. For example, in Benin, Gold Award holders helped out at an HIV centre called ARIC-EN-CIEL: they planted trees, taught cooking and had open discussions about HIV/AIDS care and well being. Plating trees for someone who had been lost to the virus not only means I love you, you are in my heart, I can’t forget you, but also that life goes on, you can hope and must be positive and as you breathe, you must be strong in your body. With careful planning, the Award can help the challenging fight against HIV/AIDS.

Hippolyte da Silva, Benin Director

FIRST INTERNATIONAL AWARD CAMP

Finland recently organised the first event of its kind, the International Award camp ‘Challenge 2006’ at the Youth Centre Metsäkartano in central Finland. 150 participants from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Cyprus, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, The Republic of Karelia and United Kingdom all attended. The programme of events included workshops on traditional Finnish skills, sports and games, adventure and expeditions including the opportunity to sleep in a traditional ‘kammi’ shelter. There was also a Service project, a youth forum and an Award presentation.

The idea behind this event was to offer multicultural learning, sharing ideas and experiences between young people, experiencing the Finnish lifestyle, enriching personal and group development and taking challenges; and not to forget celebrating the 50th Anniversary!

Anna-Kaisa Tynkkynen, Avarti

ONE OF A KIND CANOEING EXPLORATION

The Prémio selected a canoe Exploration for Silver and Gold participants to join the 50th Anniversary celebrations. It was a real challenge of survival and team work, and drew leaders, assessors and participants from different backgrounds closer together.

The training weekend and first meeting took place in Lagoa de Óbidos, where participants took part in canoe training, outdoor activities and learnt about raft building and survival techniques for land and water.

The main exploration took place at the Rio Zézere in the centre of Portugal surrounded by unique and beautiful landscapes. The groups canoed in a calm river with intermittent rapids, crossed dams and carried their canoes over locks. Along the way they met local villagers and learned about costumes, history and agriculture.

Participants and leaders have commented that this experience was amazing and something they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Nelson Barbosa, a Silver Award holder, said, “The adventure was one of the most spectacular things; I was able to do something that I never thought I would be able to”.

Luisa Beirão, Director of Portugal

Planting a tree to give hope to someone affected by HIV/AIDS

Ready, set, go
GLOBAL BIRDS FLY TO THE TOP

Staff at the International Award did their bit for the 50th Anniversary celebrations by entering the Three Peaks Challenge. The aim was to climb the three highest peaks in Scotland, Wales and England in only 24 hours.

After weeks of vigorous training and fundraising, the luxurious Land Rovers (a generous loan) arrived, and ‘the Global Birds’, as our all female team became known, embarked on the journey ahead.

Ben Nevis in Scotland, the highest peak at 4,406 feet, was the first to be climbed, with an early evening start. As the sun faded and the coldness set in, we reached the peak and a new climate of snow and ice. After a quick photo we set off back down, arriving at the bottom in darkness to be driven to the next challenge.

Scafell Pike in England, the smallest of the three peaks at 3,209 feet, was our next venture. It was not as straightforward as Ben Nevis as we came along trickier, winding routes and had to navigate boulders and rocks. The tiredness had begun to set in as we pushed to get ourselves back to the Land Rovers and on the road again.

The final mountain was Snowdon in Wales (3,560 feet). By this time the weather had turned and our lack of sleep was beginning to show. Our knees ached and our bodies groaned for food and sleep. We crossed the finish line elated to have completed the challenge in 25 hours and 40 minutes, raising £8,000 for our efforts.

Polly Underwood, Communications Assistant

DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS IN KENYA

Celebrating 50 years of the Award Programme internationally and 40 years of the Award Programme in Kenya, the Award family in Kenya welcomed 2006 with a lot of zeal!

During Easter this year, 210 Award participants, 20 adult helpers drawn from various units in the country and 100 locals participated in a Residential Project whose theme was ‘Greening Kenya’ through rehabilitation of the Aberdare Forest. The forest is one of the four water pillars in the country and the source serves over seven million citizens. We managed to plant 10,000 tree seedlings on 10 hectares of land.

During the eagerly awaited PA 2006 Expedition Challenge, over 1200 participants and leaders from different operating units came together. The challenge gave the young people an opportunity to participate in mental and physical activities focusing on personal and academic growth as well as highlighting the issues facing them with regard to HIV/AIDS and drugs.

Caleb Nzliki Kilonzo, Gold Award holder

THE AWARD THROUGH A LENS

The Asia Pacific office successfully transported photographers across 11 countries to capture modern images of the Award. Six photographers flew across the region, supported by Travel Associates, traversing cities and remote rural areas to capture participants actively working at their Award. The best of these images became a major photographic exhibition and a 60 page commemorative publication.

The exhibition was launched by HRH The Earl of Wessex in Melbourne on 15 March and in Sydney on 23 March at event sponsor, Porsche Centre Sydney South in Alexandria, before it headed to South Australia for a state event. Over 300 guests including Awardees from across the region attended each event, as well as the event’s official photographers Anindam Choudhury (India), Darren Soh (Singapore), Hayley Wood (New Zealand), Dominic Chan (Macau), Jean-Pierre Henderson (Australia) and OzGreen (Sue, Colin and Jodi Lennox from Australia).

“The quest of the exhibition was to show the depth, the breadth, the energy and the uniqueness of the Award Programme today,” says The International Award’s Asia Pacific Director, Sue Walker. “It captures moments of challenge, triumph, accomplishment and pride and shows how diverse the Award is in the context of everyday life.”

Meanwhile, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, who was in Australia for only a short time, ensured he was free to attend an official reception for supporters of the Australian Award in Sydney on 13 March at Shangri La Hotel.

Sue Walker, Asia Pacific Regional Director
WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THESE PHOTOGRAPHS OVER THE LAST FIFTY YEARS
The northern part of Ghana is noted for its high poverty rates. People mostly depend on rain for crop production; therefore, when there is less rainfall it affects the total yield of their produce. This leads to a shortage in food. Most of the people in the villages live in mud houses and cannot afford three square meals a day; they lack proper drinking water and have poor school enrolment rates.

In order to find solutions to help Ghana I presented a report of my findings to the district authorities for support for these communities. I also met with leaders of NGOs looking for support for the children. I encouraged them to help these children to acquire clothes and education.

In support of environmental conservation, I encouraged the communities I visited to plant more trees on their compounds and on their farms. I advised them to stop the rampant bush burning that contributes to the loss of trees in their environment.

Much of the response I received was very positive. An NGO called Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) donated used clothing to children. The team leader also showed concern about the issue and said it would be one of their priorities to supplement the feedings and provide clothing for the children in the region.

My project concluded that the people I visited do not need much to survive but they need the little that we give to get by. Therefore wherever we are we can do our best by supporting the needy; one person at a time.

The Award Programme as a whole is not involved in provision of relief items to poverty stricken areas but I recommend that this can be a challenge for Award participants as their form of Service to the community. They can take up collection of used clothes for the less fortunate and poverty stricken and, in a small way, make a big difference.

Alexander A. A. Narney, Gold Award holder and African IC Youth Representative

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE FIGHTS POVERTY

NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS EMBARK ON EXPEDITION

Gold Award participants from Nigeria embarked on a four day expedition to Byazhin-Kubwa in June to explore the mountain, Mount James, to train and prepare for emergencies, develop endurance and team work and to receive a talk on HIV/AIDS.

The mountain journey was interesting for the participants who discovered a water hole that the locals strongly believes gives strength and heals all manner of illnesses. They also found a clean spring with water so pure and cold that when you remove some, it immediately becomes very hot. On reaching the top of the mountain a lecture on HIV/AIDS was delivered by Phillip Ojeh, an Award leader.

They camped at Cedar International College, where they integrated with different groups and were assigned duties such as cleaning, cooking, and fetching water. While in camp, the Nigerian Postal Service (a sponsor of the 50th Anniversary activities) visited; the Economic and Financial Crime Commission talked to the groups about bribery and corruption; and the Federal Ministry of Health delivered a paper on sex education and productive health, which also included the subject of first aid.

The expedition went well and the participants made new friends, worked as a team and above all shared ideas on how to improve themselves and their immediate communities.

Jophia N. Gupar, Nigerian National Director

Creating hope for the children of Ghana

The mountain climb
ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE YOUTH IN GHANA

I was a Canadian international, on a six month internship in rural Ghana, sent as a HIV/AIDS Prevention Officer to work with the royalty of the Manya Krobo Queen Mother’s Association. They educate about AIDS while taking in the orphans that the disease leaves in its wake. As an Award participant in Canada I thought the Award Programme could easily be transplanted to the rural village, benefiting local youths while being financially viable. The Manya Krobo Award chapter was born.

Our participants were orphaned or vulnerable youth who were attending the local Paulhans Vocational School for Girls and the Kpong Football Club. Award meetings would always start and finish with singing, dancing and prayer - very lively occasions! Participants took great pride in their record books, which we fundraised for by selling plastic bottles in the market. As the Programme evolved so did the benefits. We were able to negotiate apprenticeships with local business with the added weight of the Award, an important but often challenging step for these uneducated individuals. Most importantly, however, is that the Programme engaged these young people, built their self esteem and kept them away from potentially risky behaviour that could lead to HIV/AIDS.

As I left, the young people were planning an outdoor excursion with their fishing boats down the Volta River. They are now under the supervision of a dynamic local leader, Esther Teyegaga, and hopefully the Manya Krobo Award will thrive in the future.

Leith Monaghan, Past Award leader for the Manya Krobo Award Area

SECRETARY GENERAL GOES TO PRISON

Gilly Shirazi, along with her husband Shahab, recently dropped into The President’s Award during their holiday to South Africa. They met the Award staff at the National Office in Grahamstown before being whisked off to three facilities where the Award is fully operational.

They started off at Woodridge School, which has been running the Award for two years. There they sat in on a briefing session being run by Mandy May, Programme Manager at The President’s Award, and were able to get a sense of the young people’s Award queries. Halley White, Award leader at the school, said that 10% of the high schools are now enrolled on the Award Programme.

They then moved on to St Albans Prison in Port Elizabeth, where the Award’s Prison Programme in South Africa was started in 1994. They were welcomed by 20 young Award participants who eagerly shared their experiences of the Award within prison, showing photographs of a recent hike.

The last session involved visiting a group of young people and volunteers who run the Award as part of a community youth group in Walmer Township, on the edge of Port Elizabeth. The enthusiasm of these young people, who had completed and received their Bronze Award, reflected the deep impact that the Award is having on their lives. This last group is the focus of Special Projects Funding for the next three years.

It was a real privilege to have had a visit from the Secretary General and to be able to share with her some of the experiences of young people in South Africa who are taking part in the Award.

Martin Scholtz, South Africa Director

ENGLISH CLUB FOR BENIN

The National Award Authority in Benin has created an English club for Award students. The club aims to help Award students improve their English so that they are able to make exchanges with Nigeria, their bordering country.

English is the most common language spoken in the world and our main objective through this club is to ensure clear communication with other users of the language. Exchanges with Nigeria and Ghana will create ideal opportunities to perfect our English and get to know our neighbours.

Hippolyte da Silva, Benin National Director

Participants in the Manya Krobo Award

Learning English
AMERICAS

JAMAICA VISIT

In January, I visited the Americas Regional office in Jamaica to meet with David Clarke, Americas Regional Director, as part of a programme to improve communication and efficiency between the International Secretariat and the three Regional offices in Jamaica, South Africa and Australia.

I spent the first day with Vernon Derby, National Award Director and Prince McNeish, Gold Award holder and part-time field officer, to learn more about how they operate as a National Award office. Vernon is enthusiastic about the Award and a good promoter, encouraging students and teachers to use the Award as a motivational tool to get more students involved in extra-curricular activities.

On a visit to Campion College, New Kingston, I was introduced to Dr Mary Campbell from the Jamaican Ministry of Education, who was there to promote the Ministry’s support of the Award Programme. Since November 2005, the Ministry has been recommending the Award as the Programme of choice for young people in all secondary schools, universities and colleges for personal and social development.

We also visited Cumberland High School in Portmore. Participants treated us to an exhibition of Award activities, prepared especially for my visit. Dahlia Black, the principal, recognises that participating brings out the best in the students. The students involved in the Award achieve good academic standings as well as being involved in many extra-curricular activities around the school.

With the support of the Ministry of Education, it is hoped that the Award in Jamaica will continue to grow with a greater number of students participating and achieving the Award.

Bonnie Whang, Secretary General’s Assistant

THE CARIBBEAN AWARD SCHEME COUNCIL ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY (CASC)

Antigua and Barbuda was the location for CASC’06 from July 21st until August 9th, which was a very stimulating adventure. Some 116 Silver and Gold participants attended from Caribbean countries as well as USA, Canada, Bermuda, United Kingdom and of course the Bahamas. The Bahamas contingent was made up of six Gold participants. In its 27th year, the CASC opening ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister, Winston Baldwin Spencer. CASC participants were addressed at a reception by the Governor General and the Minister for Youth and had the opportunity to visit Government House, Shirley Heights, Sea View Farm and Harmony Hall and Art Gallery. The Gold level adventurous journey took place on the island of Barbuda, and covered five days and four nights.

GOLD AWARD HOLDERS CAMP IN BAHAMAS

The first ever Gold Award holders Association (GAHA) ‘Camp In’ in the Bahamas was deemed a success by all who attended. The theme was ‘Developing You’ and included workshops on HIV/AIDS awareness and personal development. Other activities included role play, energizers, talent hour, a movie and aerobics. President of the GAHA, Jason Cartwright, and his team were beaming with pride and indicated their plans to make the ‘Camp In’ an annual event.

The GAHA assist with many activities, mainly international coastal clean ups, youth marches and the Adventurous Journey panel. They also give service annually to charitable organisations and attend international events and workshops. This ‘Camp In’ is expected to be a new event added to their list.

Denise Mortimer, Bahamas Executive Director

Cumberland High School welcomes Bonnie

Undertaking a big adventure
DOMINICA

Dominica is a small developing nation with limited valuable resources. For young offenders there are no juvenile centres or institutions, where they can be housed and rehabilitated to become positive nation builders.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is at present coordinating a project for young people aged 16-25 years at the Dominica State Prison, to foster the development of entrepreneurial skills in agriculture and craft. Other areas include social skills and adult education to improve their social, family life and literacy/remedial skills, and improve employment prospects, one of the key factors in reducing offending.

The project is aimed at encouraging young people to challenge themselves, with activities that can develop knowledge and appreciation of teamwork, creativity, communication, good work habits and rehabilitation.

The Young Offenders Programme, which is part funded by UNICEF, along with the International Award Association and the Local Award Authority, was implemented by The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, Dominica, and has been a learning experience for all who have been involved. For many of the facilitators it was a first time experience for them going into the prison and interacting with inmates.

It is hoped that the success of the Programme will be visible not only in the reduction of young people being housed at the prison but also through other agencies locally, regionally and internationally who will come aboard and help find the root causes and address the issue of the increase in young offenders.

Delia Giddings, National Director of Dominica

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Committee, Antigua and Barbuda held its annual Bronze and Silver Award ceremony at Government House, hosted by His Excellency Sir James B. Carlisle and Lady Carlisle. The Award ceremony was attended by government officials, the Americas Regional Director, parents and supporters.

Eight Bronze participants and five Silver participants from the Girl Guides Association, Cassada Gardens Methodist Youth Group and Shotokan Karate School received their Awards. At the ceremony, leaders were also presented with first aid licenses and swimming certificates through the lifeguard division within the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

Kelise Hunte, Director of Antigua and Barbuda

THE AWARD AND DIVERSITY

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Young Canadians Challenge has, in recent years, made a concerted effort to create opportunities to ensure that we are inclusive of all youth, particularly those with varying abilities, including those considered to be disadvantaged. The Award Programme in Canada operates in all ten provinces and three territories with a total registration of 30,000 youth. Of this total, approximately 15% or 4,500 are considered to be disadvantaged youth.

One of our first and most successful initiatives is in Newfoundland, where we established the Challenging Our Students To Achieve (COSTA) project almost 10 years ago. COSTA encourages and supports the participation of young people with cognitive disabilities in the Award Programme.

One of our newest initiatives in providing the Award to disadvantaged youth has been established at Simmonds High school, New Brunswick. Youths there selected life skills as their Skills Section, cleaned tables in the lunch room for their community Service and walked outdoors and indoors for the physical activity.

In Ontario, the SOAR program (Seeking Opportunities Accessing Resources) offers an innovative day programme for young adults with intellectual disabilities, assisting individuals in making a successful transition from school to community-based activities and work. The ultimate goal is for the participant to make informed choices about future life directions, and enhance their level of independence.

Saskatchewan’s longest-standing relationship is with a residential treatment centre. Ranch Erhlo Society is dedicated to the provision of quality residential treatment services for children and young adults who are experiencing a range of social, psychological, mental, psychiatric, and/or physical disabilities.

Rick Ashbee, Canadian Executive Director

Congratulations on your Awards

Young Canadian participants
AN EXPEDITION ON HORSEBACK

Stray stallions, dehydration and disappearing dirt roads were just some of the perils Young New Zealanders’ Challenge Participant Amanda Van Zyl faced during a 170 kilometre horse trek across Namibia. In the searing heat of an African summer, Amanda and three other keen horse lovers and explorers packed their saddle bags for a Gold Expedition on what Amanda describes as “a beautifully scenic route” through one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world.

Amanda grew up in Namibia and her family still owns horses, kept at the Lazy Gecko Mountain Lodge just outside Windhoek, Namibia’s capital. So the location was ideal, giving Amanda and the group a chance to further explore the area.

Due to extreme heat, the riders took numerous short breaks to refill water supplies and avoid dehydration. Through a network of acquaintances the trekkers arranged to stay in hunting cabins on farms where the horses could be stabled while the participants slept out under the stars.

A stray stallion attached itself to the group on the last day. “He was very aggressive” recalls Amanda: “He jumped a fence and followed us for nearly 30 kilometres.”

The other surprise was how tiring such a trip can be. Although an accomplished rider, Amanda and her horse had never attempted such a long journey before. “It was a test of endurance for both of us... you get sore in spots you didn’t know you had!”

Andy Woodhouse, New Zealand Joint Executive Director

A SHARK’S TALE

In June, The NYAA Council Singapore sent 10 Gold Award holders and participants to Ningaloo Marine Park in Australia to help in conservation research on the massive yet gentle whale shark.

The species is in need of great care to ensure its future survival and is currently listed by the World Conservation Union as “vulnerable to extinction”. Prior to the mid-1980s there had been less than 350 confirmed sightings of whale sharks worldwide.

However, at Ningaloo Marine Park, Australia, the whale sharks return every year, providing tourists with the unique opportunity to swim alongside these gentle giants, thus making it one of the best places in the world to see and study whale sharks.

During the research period, the NYAA Awardees were involved in photo-tagging of individuals and helping to determine the rate of return of whale sharks to the region (macro scale); the rate of return to specific parts of the Ningaloo Reef (micro scale); site preference for individuals; growth rates for the species and whale shark behaviours under tourism pressure.

The research and data collected by the NYAA Gold Awardees will be presented to the World Conservation Union. The research project on whale sharks, costing around $87,000, will be fully sponsored by HSBC Singapore.

James Seh, Singapore Director

WATER PROJECT UPDATE

In 2005, the International Award Asia Pacific Region announced a major partnership with the Australian environmental group OzGREEN to develop a regional programme which allowed Awardees to actively participate in the protection of their environment.

The programme, initially titled Water for Life, was designed to directly involve young people in assessing the health of the local environment. Once aware, these Awardees would then be equipped to design and develop their own vision and action plan for implementing eco-social projects in their own communities.

The Water for Life pilot project began in November 2005 in Pakistan with the focus being the River Ravi. 44 Gold, three Silver and nine Bronze Awardees worked with Award staff, volunteers and OzGREEN on water quality testing of river water, canals and major drains from 18 sites around Lahore. This research discovered the water was severely polluted and despite being unfit for any human contact, was being used for domestic and agricultural purposes.

The following stage was a two day youth congress to analyse results and prepare action plans followed by a two hour community forum run by youth
participants. Action plans focused on raising awareness including visits to schools and colleges within Lahore.

Regional Director, Sue Walker says, “The water project pilot demonstrated the power of information and that engagement with young people can directly lead to building a more sustainable environment for the future.”

Since its successful pilot, the project has been further developed into the ‘Youth Water Challenge’. Three regional Youth Water Challenge Water Weeks will be held across Asia Pacific between 2007 and 2009 which will draw together the NAAs and young people as well as corporate partners and related agencies such as the UN.

Kim Brisbane, Asia Pacific Region

YOUNG NEW ZEALANDERS MEET SOMALI REFUGEES

One of the Young New Zealanders’ Challenge ‘Charter for Business’ (C4B) projects involves working with young Somali refugee women.

The group that undertook this project, whilst looking forward to learning and practising bushcraft, had reservations as to how they would cope with tramping in traditional dress. But they got stuck in and overcame all obstacles. For many of the girls it was their first time in New Zealand bush, which is similar to Somalian bush but, as one of the girls put it, “There is nothing dangerous out here”.

Camping in tents was new to the whole group and as usual the first night under canvas was a late one, involving storytelling, games and the usual high spirits and enthusiasm.

The training course took place on Tapu Te Ranga Marae in Island Bay, Wellington; huge thanks go to Kaumatua Bruce Stewart for facilitating this event.

In addition to the bushcraft training, which was run by Bianca Ranson of Potiki Adventures, the girls learnt about Maori protocol, myths and legends. They were amazed to find that there are many structural similarities between Maori and Somali cultures.

It was a two-way learning process: the girls were able to enlighten Challenge staff about life as a young Somali woman. This will enable the team to work more efficiently and recruit more effectively within the refugee community.

For the Physical Recreation section, the girls go swimming at an indoor pool in nearby Porirua. Skills undertaken are as many and varied as the girls themselves but for Service they work as a group, fundraising to buy a minibus for their youth group.

The intention is to run the qualifying expedition with mixed groups of Somali and Maori young women.

Andy Woodhouse, New Zealand Joint Executive Director

AN HISTORICAL EVENT FOR HONG KONG

Lok Yew Hall, one of the historic monuments in Hong Kong, has not only witnessed the changes of Hong Kong in the past century, but also the presentation of Gold Awards recently.

Having striven for the Gold Award with their utmost determination, the 130 Gold Awardees finally received their certificates from The Hon Donald Tsang, GBM, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and also the Patron of the Hong Kong Award.

We were also honoured to have Ronald Arculli and Stanley Ho attend the ceremony to share the joy with our recipients.

Brenda Cheung, HKAYP

Gold Awardees in Hong Kong

Refugees on their bushcraft adventure

Testing the health of the Ravi River
The International Award for Young People, The Netherlands, hosted the 1st International Award Youth Event EMAS Region in April.

Adult staff, volunteers, and Gold Award holders developed a sensational programme over a period of two years with the objective of strengthening the International Award family across the EMAS Region and developing a greater awareness of issues affecting young people worldwide. The three themes - social safety, development of an EMAS Regional Gold Award Holders Association (GAHA) and commemoration of 50 years of the Award Programme - fulfilled these underlying objectives.

Nearly 40 Gold Award participants and holders from 11 countries in the EMAS Region participated in the eight day programme which combined round table discussions and debates with each of the main themes. Participants also enjoyed a variety of cultural excursions and organised activities relating to the Sections of the Award. The programme culminated in a Gala Reception and buffet dinner at the spectacular Castle Heeswijk.

The successes of the 1st EMAS Youth Event are abundant. Three special guests, HRH The Earl of Wessex from the UK, Prince Guillaume from Luxembourg and Princess Maximá from the Netherlands joined in the event, each of whom helped to raise the profile of the Award Programme in The Netherlands. Wim van der Laan, Director of the Dutch Award Programme, achieved a successful conclusion by securing three times Olympic Champion Judo Captain Mark Huizinga as the new ambassador for The Netherlands Award.

Fundamentally, the young participants were key to the success of the event as they demonstrated great initiative and resourcefulness in developing the foundations for the first EMAS Regional GAHA.

The 1st EMAS Youth Event accomplished great victories for the Award in the Netherlands and throughout the EMAS Region. Congratulations to all those who contributed and triumphed at this unique event.

Helen Astaniou, EMAS Executive Assistant

I am delighted to announce that two Silver Award participants, Christian Hadley and Heather Shield, have won the Team title in the Millennium Volunteer of the Year 2005 awards!

Many congratulations go to this winning combination whose hard work, tenacity and commitment proved to be unbeatable when they undertook as their MV project the refurbishment of an NHS hospital garden used by Brookvale adolescent service in England. Over a period of six months they transformed an overgrown jungle of head height brambles into a therapeutic garden space for young people and staff to escape or participate in group activities.

Christian and Heather are justifiably proud of themselves - as are we!

Anne Tomlinson, UK Award
THE NEVER-ENDING JOURNEY OF THE EMAS TRAINING PANEL

In December 2004, a group of people got together in London to take part in a new venture, the formation of a training panel for the Europe Mediterranean and Arab States (EMAS). The idea was to train a group of people involved in their own National Award Programmes or IOs to deliver training to new potential operators of the Award at home and in countries where the Award is developing. The aim of the training in London, facilitated by Alison Lewis from Spiral Training, was to increase each delegate’s knowledge of how to design and deliver quality Award training programmes and to give them confidence to deliver training.

While we prepared our goodbyes, we put in place an action list of things that would help us achieve some longer term goals. We re-grouped in February of this year in Finland (thanks to the kind generosity and hospitality of the Finnish Avarti) to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the EMAS training panel and to share ideas and experiences.

Since these two get-togethers, an EMAS Regional Training Plan has been put together with the ongoing support of the EMAS Regional Team and the Head of Operations, without whose initiative none of this could have happened. The aim of the plan is to support the training panel and “to take us boldly where no trainer has been before...”. Stay tuned!

Marion Irwin, Regional Trainer

ISRAEL YOUTH AWARD TRIP TO DIMONA AND RAHAT

As part of the framework of studies and training in the Israel Youth Award Programme, we have been touring the country to understand how the Programme works. The last tour was to Rahat, a Beduin town in the south, and to Dimona, where the Hebrew Israelite community lives.

Israel is a multicultural country with different sectors. By touring the country, I discovered in the Programme, understanding, acceptance of that which is different, and bonding by means of a mutual language. I have become acquainted with cultures in Israel whose existence I never knew. I am in contact with members who constitute a bridge to understanding, building reciprocity and a desire to return and meet again.

We visited the Hebrew Israelite Community, where there are 70 active Bronze and Silver participants. The Programme there develops the personality of the participant in different areas and enables students to express themselves, outside the academic field. At the Beduin town of Rahat, we were received by the mayor and all the formal and informal educational staff, with superb hospitality. To take part in this training and leadership course and to feel it with all our senses was an extraordinary experience; what could be better than this?

Avri Shacham, Israel Youth Award

ACTION FIVE COURSE

The Israel Youth Award invites you to take part in an Action Five training course within the framework of the Euro-Med Youth Programme. The course will be taking place from 3-11 December 2006.

The aim of this project is to bring together youth and youth workers from different countries and cultures and help them to break down their coexisting stereotypes and to acquire the tools to work against xenophobia and lack of understanding in their own communities.

For further information regarding the course please contact Dan Waller, Project Coordinator, at danwoll@zahav.net.il.

THOUGHTS FOR THE FUTURE

The first Adventurous Journey Course for Award leaders was organised by the International Secretariat in Droushia, Cyprus at the end of April 2006. A total of nine Leaders from Belgium, the UAE and Cyprus participated in the four day event in the unspoilt Akamas peninsula in the north-west of the island. The course was largely practical and it was designed to bring out the vast experience of the participants, which greatly enriched the sessions.

Course participants planned, carried out and evaluated an overnight venture, which gave everyone the chance to get first hand experience of what young people actually go through when doing the Adventurous Journey Section. The leaders then made presentations on the purpose for their journey which helped them get a good feel of the section requirements. The Award leaders who attended the course built new skills and strong friendships, an example that Award participants can gain from in the future!

Yiannos Papaioannou, International Coordinator

IRELAND’S 21ST ANNIVERSARY

This year Ireland held a celebratory event to mark its 21st Anniversary of the Award, attended by Mary Mcleese, President of the Award in Ireland and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. It was a joyous occasion for all who took part.
Why did you choose to support the International Award?  

First of all, my basis for donating to any charity is to help young people. I think this goes back to my own upbringing. My father was an alcoholic and I was basically forced out of school when I was 15, to help contribute to the family household financially.

Also, my daughters have taken their Bronze Award, and they enjoyed it immensely - they loved it. It kind of reinvigorated me. They went up into the hills, they camped out one night, they cooked: it was fantastic. I think that their friendships with their school friends improved after that weekend. I could see the enjoyment they got, and thought, I want to give to a few charities.

When I was looking at good causes, I wanted to find one that was mature, with a proven infrastructure, that helps young people. If you look at the Award, it’s got a lot of history, it’s got a very well organised structure, it’s international, and you can be sure that if you contribute to the Award, then the money will be used wisely.

How do you think programmes such as the Award and scouting can help a young person’s development generally?

I think the boy scouts changed my life. I didn’t realise it at the time, but it taught me some basics to life. I used to go camping nearly every weekend in the summer. What it did was it got me out of the household; it got me out of the urban environment. I was brought up on a council estate in Hackney, and it got me out into green fields, and I loved it. I honestly believe I wouldn’t be where I am today if I hadn’t been in the boy scouts.

The Award gets people out of the classrooms and teaches you some basic skills of life, which I think are important. For example, when I was in the boy scouts I learnt to sew, I learnt to cook, I learnt to wash, I learnt to iron, and actually, even though I have a very privileged life now, I think nothing of cooking myself something to eat. I believe that if you take the Award at any level, it will improve your life, because it’s another part of knowledge that comes into your life.

What motivates you?

What motivates me is how far I can go, and you can be sure that if you contribute to the Award, then the money will be used wisely.

How would you like to see the Award develop with your support?

It’s our ambition now to have a million people participating in the Award, and my contribution I hope will get us there. That’s a lot of people we’re helping.

I’d also like us to go even more international. If you look at some of the problems around the world now, there’s a lot that we can do. The list is endless. But if we can just help young people: give them a reason to do things, give them an objective.

I’m hoping in a small way that I will continue the awareness of the Award. If I can do anything to help the Award then it’s my pleasure.

What do you put your success down to?

I still don’t know the answer to that question. The first thing is that I would say that I really enjoy working. I think success in business gave me the security in the early days that I didn’t have when I was living at home.

I would not work purely for money, and there in itself lies quite a key point. Because if you do something for money, then, you lower your standards, and you compromise. If you do something for love and ambition and enjoyment, then I think you have a very good foundation to become a successful person. I have been running this company 17 years, and I do get stressed, but I’m generally not. Why? Because it’s a pleasure. I love coming into my office, meeting people, discussing the business.

What is your desire to retire?

My ambition now is to be happy. My ambition is to run a good business, support people in the business. I want them to like working for me. I have no desire to retire.

How do you think the Award can help young people?

The Award Programme is open to young people of 14-25. What challenges did you face in your teens and early twenties, and what ambitions did you have?

Well my ambitions were very limited because basically, I had no education, and really all I was trying to do was survive. I was trying to keep my mum supported. I had to support her financially and emotionally. Obviously as I got older and more stable and more successful, then my ambitions changed.

My ambition now is to be happy. My ambition is to run a good business, support people in the business. I want them to like working for me. I have no desire to retire.
how big we can grow. I think sharing success with my employees is the thing that motivates me the most. And I don’t just mean financially, either, I love to share my success! And I’m sharing it with the International Award.

**AW:** How much time do you spend overseas?

I travel a bit. I value family life because of my own lack of family life when I was a kid, so I try to be reasonable. I travel on average about 12 weeks a year, overseas. But the important things is, that when I’m not travelling, when I’ve finished my day’s work, I go home.

**VODAFONE SPONSORS AFRICAN LITERATURE INITIATIVE**

Already a corporate member of the World Fellowship, we are delighted to welcome the Vodafone Group Foundation as a Gold Friend and global sponsor of the International Award’s Record Books and Handbooks.

This year, a proportion of these Record Books and Handbooks will be specifically divided between five National Award Authorities in the Africa region: Kenya, Guinea, Cote D’Ivoire, Madagascar and Ghana. These countries have been selected to take part in a two year pilot project as part of the Africa Regional Strategy to increase the quality of the Award Programmes and annual number of participants.

Providing investment for these materials will reduce the financial pressures on a number of Award Authorities, ensuring young participants have the resources to follow a quality Award Programme as well as continuing to promote the International Award’s global brand.

Emma Emmerson, Fundraising Executive

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**50TH ANNIVERSARY SUPPORTERS’ GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

Over 8,000 Award supporters, dressed in their finery, gathered on the lawns of Buckingham Palace on Thursday 13 July to take tea, nibble tiny delicious cakes, explore the gardens and, for many, to meet a member of the Royal Family. The party was attended by the Founder, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, The Earl and Countess of Wessex, both of whom work tirelessly for the Award, and, as a great honour to the Award, Her Majesty the Queen.

A pre-garden party lunch was held for the World Fellowship and other major supporters of the Award, including Global Benefactor Peter Cruddas and Global Partner, Olympus. The lunch was also to thank those who had generously sponsored delegates to attend the Edinburgh Forum in November.

On behalf of Global Partner Olympus, Michael Woodford accepted a certificate from International Trustee Mr Christopher Lowe.

Catherine Corbet Milward, World Fellowship Executive

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Chris Lowe is greeted by HRH The Queen
INDEPENDENT OPERATORS

INDEPENDENT OPERATORS

Since the last edition of Award World we are very pleased to welcome 21 new Independent Operators. There are now 167 IOs in 61 countries.

SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Surabaya, Indonesia
British International School, Bratislava, Slovakia
Dubai Modern High School, UAE
Youth Empowerment Programme, Tanzania
International School of Zug, Switzerland
Ministry of Education and Science, Poland
United World College of the Adriatic, Italy
International School of Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Mérite de la Jeunesse du Congo, Republic of Congo
Swans International School, Spain
American Academy in Paphos, Cyprus
L’Ermitage, France
Our Own High School, UAE
Harrow International School, Beijing, China
International School of Tianjin, China
Tianjin Rego International School, China
National Youth Initiative Centre, Latvia
Velzys Gymnasium, Lithuania
Kamuzu Academy, Malawi
British School of Boston, USA
Megunarodna Nagrada Za Mladi, Macedonia

THE QASHAH CIRCUIT CLIMB

Gold Award participants took part in a tough expedition to complete their Award. They were taken to Wadi Tanuf and Wadi Qashah to scramble, climb and trek the arduous Qashah Circuit which climbs an impressive 1000 meters from the foot of the wadi. Along the way students were assessed on their leadership and team skills, route finding, first aid, compass and map work. They were also encouraged to interact with the villagers they met along the way. Some of the students have never been this far into the mountains and, even though exhausted at the end, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it is one they will never forget.

The countryside of Oman offers a wealth of opportunities to take part in these types of ventures. It is hoped that those students taking part in the Award will learn to experience new activities and broaden their own horizons to go out there and try it for themselves. The staff from the school have all played a role in supporting the Award by encouraging the students and providing assistance whenever it is needed.

Tim Fenton, Award Leader, The British School, Muscat, Oman

A CHALLENGE FOR CHENGELO

Gold Award participants from Chengelo School took off for Lake Tanganyika in the Northern tip of Zambia. We were to canoe across and explore the lake, climb up the second highest waterfall in Africa, the magnificent Kalambo Falls, then further explore the Kalambo River and people and culture of the surrounding area.

On the second day we started off quite early, enthusiastically singing and splashing water on each other to the amusement of the local fishermen we met. As midday approached it became windy. The waves took us up and down, and what we didn’t realise was that with every stroke forward, the waves took us three strokes back.

As we approached Luke’s Beach, our final destination for the day, the sunset was magnificent across the horizon. The

FIRST AWARD GROUP IN ESTONIA

In February 2001 our good friends from Finland introduced us to the Award Programme and by October we were ready to start our very first group at the Tallinn’s Folk High School. Four years on, the members of the original group have received their Gold Award certificates. It was a great day for all of us. Those four years have been really exhilarating for all the group members who have been outstanding in their activities. As time has passed, more and more people have joined the Programme, so now we have new Bronze, Silver and Gold groups in Estonia as well.

During the four years one of the most interesting projects was a social drama, ‘Broken Mirror’, which became possible through the help of Youth for Europe. The idea originated from another one of our projects called ‘We Can Help You’. Our group worked with ‘at risk’ children, trying to help them to change their point of view in difficult situations and to perform on stage.

The next interesting project will be with the Estonian Heart Association in an international health programme.

Krista Arbet, Award Leader, Tallinn Folk High School, Estonia

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wood set ablaze on the beach was inviting - after all we had been through, it was a treat! The evening was magical: the line of fishing boats stretched across the lake in the distance with their lights on; the stars were shining beautifully in the sky above.

The third day was the walk up the Kalambo Falls. I was filled with anticipation because this is the second highest waterfall in Africa. The walk took us about two and a half hours - it was not easy! Upon arrival the site was breathtaking.

The final day was our journey back to where we had started from. We sailed for six hours. After capsizing a few times our long and hard day finally came to an end. We experience the joy of having finally finished, along with sadness that it was all over!

“For me this trip was life changing and challenging; it challenged me physically and mentally. It exposed me to others’ lifestyles, like those of the local villagers. It made me see the potential of my country and its natural beauty. It challenged me spiritually,” said Twaambo Chikoye, one of the participants.

Richard Thompson, Award Leader

BRITISH SCHOOL VENTURES INTO VIETNAM

S pecial congratulations to the British International School in Vietnam on the completion of their first Bronze Awards. HRH The Duke of York was making a scheduled visit to the school to open up the secondary campus and whilst there he presented eight Awardees with their certificates during the official proceedings in the school auditorium.

These presentations represent a wonderful boost to the Award Programme in Vietnam. The International School has a very large Asian population. Of the eight Awardees, one is Vietnamese, two are Korean, two are Filipino and three are British. Of the 25 students just starting the Bronze Award this year, more than 15 of them are Vietnamese and having HRH present the first Bronze certificates augers well for the development of the Programme within the school.

Louise Jenkins, Award Leader, British International School, Vietnam

NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS GO GREEN

O ur voluntary Service for the Silver Award has taken place in Lekki Conservation Centre, headquarters for the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF). This centre is a tropical rainforest with a remarkable diversity of wildlife, including monkeys, crocodiles and antelope which we often see during our visits.

The students and I visit the centre every Saturday morning. There are a series of trails through the forest, many of which are raised above ground level (boardwalks) as the forests floods during the rainy season. Our job has been to sweep the boardwalks and repair them whenever we find rotten or broken planks, making the path safe for visitors. We also cut back overgrown vegetation, and collect litter and empty bins.

Whilst this work is going on in the forest, another group has been working at the school, preparing information and display boards to be erected around the entrance to the reserve. A large display on rainforest ecology protected in a glass display case has already been handed over. The guides who escort tourists around the reserve make full use of it when describing what they will see and should look out for.

The NCF have been delighted with our work and have already highlighted new projects for the next cohort of Silver Award participants, including making a study of the small patches of grassland within the reserve to identity species and establish the level of diversity compared with the rainforest. We will also be producing some smaller signboards to erect within the forest.

This project has been great publicity for the Award. When we explain to visitors that we are doing voluntary service for the International Award, we always get lots of questions and compliments. The students are developing a greater awareness of the importance of conservation, an issue which sadly does not get enough attention in Nigeria.

Steve Colliver, Award Leader, The British International School Nigeria

Many hands make light work

Presentations at Ho Chi Minh British School
CHANGING FACES

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR JAMAICA
Ms Lilyclaire Bellamy, a lawyer, is the new Chairman of the National Executive Council for Jamaica. She replaces Lt. Col. Stacey Thompson who served for six years as Chairman.

NEW PATRON FOR THE BAHAMAS
The Governor-General’s Youth Award has a new Patron, The Honourable Arthur D. Hanna, newly appointed Governor General of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Mr Hanna was Deputy Prime Minister and government leader in the House of Assembly from 1967 - 1984, and a member of parliament from 1960 - 1992.

During his tenure as a member of the cabinet, Mr Hanna successively held ministerial portfolios, most notably as Minister of Education, Minister of Trade and Industry, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance.

ANNA DEAN
Congratulations to Anna Dean, Executive Officer of The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, Western Australia, on her retirement after 25 years’ service.

AWARD ENGAGEMENT
Congratulations to Jaquetta Lightbourne (Gold Award Holder and Americas IC Youth Representative) and Dwight Maycock (Gold Award Holder) on their recent engagement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO KENYANS
Congratulations to Matthew Kithyoka who has been appointed as the new Operations Director for Africa. He will assist the Africa Regional Office with NAA visits and handling operational issues within the region. Matthew was previously the National Director of the Kenyan President’s Award programme and will be succeeded by Edwin Kimani who is also the Regional Trainer for Africa.

BECKY DAVIS
Becky has joined the team at the International Secretariat, as maternity cover for Claire Dakin, Head of Communications. As Communications Manager, Becky’s role will include working on International Award publications, including Award World and the Annual Report; she is ably assisted by Polly Underwood, Communications Assistant. Previously Becky worked for The Midcounties Co-operative, a large regional co-operative society. In her free time, she loves to sing and has a passion for all things outdoors!

NEW DIRECTOR FOR ANTIGUA
Welcome to Kelisa Hunte who is the new NAA Director for Antigua and Barbuda. Introduced to The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award while she was a Ranger Guide, Kelisa began working on her Bronze Award in the Service area, where she assisted nurses in caring for sick children.

Kelisa’s most recent achievement was the completion of her Gold Award in August 2002 in Barbados. This occasion was memorable and remarkable because she was one of the first recipients to receive the Gold Award in 20 years for Antigua and Barbuda.

“THe Award has proven to be a wonderful asset in my life development,” says Kelisa. “It has given me a positive outlook on life and has changed my personality.”

NEW CHAIRMAN OF ST LUCIA
G. Llewellyn Gill, a Gold Award holder, was elected Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Programme in St. Lucia recently. He is part of a new team with a mandate to make the Programme more widely available and utilized in St. Lucia.

The new Chairman’s experience of the Award has spanned over 30 years from enrolment as a participant to various responsibilities within St. Lucia and the Caribbean Region.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN OF AVARTTI
Olli Saarela, Chairman of the Finnish Award Avartti, was honoured with the Maarjamaa’s Cross (fourth class) by The President of Estonia recently, for his support in developing Estonia’s youth work.

SINGAPORE DIRECTOR RECEIVES MBE
Congratulations to James Soh, Executive Director, NYAA Council and Honorary Advisor for the Asia Pacific Region, who was recently conferred the Award of Member of the British Empire (MBE).

The British Honour was presented to Mr Soh by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during her state visit to Singapore in March, for his outstanding leadership and contribution to youth development both in Singapore and overseas.