

## e-Newsletter

Number 20



January 2023

Delivering a Common Future:  
Connecting, Innovating, Transforming

### Editorial:

Welcome to this new edition of our newsletter.

CASTME activities have an influence on ordinary people across the commonwealth. The STEM projects relate to pre-school children and their mothers, secondary and primary pupils in formal education and informal learning. We particularly focus on life-long learning and the involvement of mothers, carers, families and communities in developing understanding of Everyday science, maths and engineering in action in their community and culture. CASTME has links around the Commonwealth, including dialogue with STEM educators, particularly in UK, some African countries, Mauritius, Malta, Australia and Canada. CASTME awards have recently been made to STEM projects in Malta, India, and Nigeria.

Rachel Morgan

### **TAKING STEM TO THE DOORSTEPS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

The year 2023, was opened by CHILDREN-IN-SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CIST): an Organization aimed at popularising Science and Technology among children for self-reliance, with an activity titled: **TAKING STEM TO THE DOORSTEPS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS** in a rural community within Ekiti State, Nigeria on the 17<sup>th</sup> January,2023.

Using STEM Play Cycle (Tunncliffe, 2021), children ranging from 1month -11years of age, housed in Erelu Adebayo Children’s Home Iyin –Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria were exposed to fundamental principles of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in songs, poems and interactive discussions with the children and their caregivers.

The visit was rounded up with distribution of exercise books, writing materials, toiletries and snacks.



Plate1: Representative of the children during the round- up session.

**2022 Findel CASTME Awards**

The following awards were announced at the ASE conference in January 2023

1 The Findel CASTME Education Award Presented to the entry that displays an innovative approach to increasing STEM awareness. The awardee will receive a £300 voucher to spend on Philip Harris science equipment or resources as well as an international membership of the ASE for one year

Awarded to **Action Through Enterprise Ghana**

STEM Education/ Computer Suite in Inclusion Centre, Lawra in Upper West Ghana

Submitted by Gabriel Maanibe Director of Operations

2 The Findel CASTME Protect Our Planet Award Presented to a STEM project which focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals such as Climate Change, Responsible Consumption and Clean Water. The awardee will receive a £100 voucher from Findel International

Awarded to **Nikhar Bridge School** Rajasthan India

Imparting Experiences for Science Processes and Laboratory Techniques to Rural Muslim Girls of Bridge School with Discarded Ball Point Pens -"Reuse of discarded materials for hands on science learning."

Submitted by Rama Sharma and Beena Mali

3 The Findel CASTME Community Award Presented to a community project focused on mothers, fathers, carers and children and/or on raising awareness of STEM in the community. The awardee will receive a £50 voucher from Findel International

Awarded to **Tetara Debi Academy**, India Development of Science Area

Submitted by Carol Singh on behalf of TD Education Charity

**SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

Certificate of Commendation awarded to **Dr Bhavesh Pandya** Mathematical and science education through stories without use of compound conjunctions. Gujarat India



Certificate of Commendation awarded to Dr Lalit Kishore **The Plenum School India** “Towards Reusing Plastics Trash of School and Nearby Villages for “STEAM” Education related to Climate Change Awareness and Sustainability.”

**Society of Biology Mauritius- Blood Donation Program**



In our first community project after COVID, we did have a blood donation programme where about 200 persons had their free health check-up done and were given counselling about healthy diet and life-style diseases like Diabetes and Blood pressure. Around 50 persons donated their blood. They were given fruits and juices by the Society of Biology. The programme was a success as it brought awareness of healthy eating habits and effect of exercise on health in the community.

Report from Ellora Dhunoo, President, Society of Biology, Mauritius







**Dons Brainstorm in Ekiti on exposing Children, Youth to Science ,Technology for Sustainable National Devt** (Extract from newshereandthere.com)

In September 2022, relevant stakeholders converged in Ekiti state to deliberate how a global network of scientifically and technologically literate society could be built, using children and youths as agents of change.

They also planned to develop children on how to put into use scientific skills for robust transformation.

These form parts of the submission presented by the 12th international conference organized by an under the aegis of Children-in-Science and (CIST)

The Director of CIST Prof. Ibiyinka Ogunlade of Chemistry Department ,EKSU said the programme has had tremendous impact on numerous children in shaping their future and influencing their perspectives about life.

“ I am happy to say that Children-in-science and Technology has been a tremendous blessing in multidimensional ways not only on the children and the youths who are our target but parents and caregivers as well”.

No fewer than twenty schools , private primary and secondary participated at the conference with public presentations in the form of music, cultural dance,play and talks. The event also witnessed awards and exhibition.

The Key note speaker, Prof.Olukoya Ogen who is the Director of Research and innovation management ,Osun state University, Osogbo spoke on the theme of the conference-STEAMi: Pathways to sustainable National Development.



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EKSU Vice Chancellor VC , Prof. Edward Olanipekun applauded the organizers for “recognizing the strategic importance of laying a solid foundation for our children in the areas of STEAMi for national development”.

Chairman of the. Conference: Prof Israel Owolabi, of Afe Babalola University ABUAD,Ado-Ekiti however warned against developing science and technology at the expense of arts saying “ without art, there cant be world, those who believe we need to promote science above art missed it,innovation of science ,technology and Arts matters’ , urging on renewable energy.

### **Mothers Talking Everyday Science project in Sreepur, Bangladesh**

Started in 2010, this project is delivered as part of the Literacy programme and designed to empower mothers by improving their understanding of STEM in their daily activities. They are encouraged to talk with their children and other mothers as they carry out routine tasks everyday to increase understanding and interest in STEM.

#### Homemade Saline



Shishu Polli Plus

Talking science is an innovative – Teaching science to mothers

Shishu Polli Plus

Report Prepared By – Alfi Shahrin

Date – January 16, 2023



Drama performance

The goal of this program is to teach and instruct mothers on how to quickly make saline at home in an emergency situation, as well as to raise awareness of the benefits of saline.

Besides the discussions, some practical activities for mothers were also planned. So they can learn practically and comprehend better. Saline food is water mixed with salt and glucose to compensate for dehydration and salt deficiency in the body was discussed with the beneficiary mothers during the session. In hot weather, the body sweats profusely. As a result, excess water comes out of the body with



# ASTME

*Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators*

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sweat. So we should drink a lot of water during this time. This food saline helps to fill the water void in the body.

### **Commonwealth Girls' Education Fund**

CGEF (Commonwealth Girls' Education Fund) have published a cookery book containing yummy recipes from around the Commonwealth. Some of the recipes were provided by CASTME members. Sale proceeds will help to sponsor girls' education in a Commonwealth country, by paying for them to attend school. The book can be ordered to assist their fundraising efforts by following this link

[The Commonwealth Cookbook: A collection of delicious authentic recipes from around the world.](#)

**Talk and Do Science** on Facebook and Instagram

<https://www.facebook.com/Talk-and-Do-Science-at-Home-116167663504654/>

<https://www.instagram.com/castmeactivities/>

Our aim through these pages is to encourage and support parents and carers to nurture children's natural curiosity by observing, talking and exploring with them every day at home and during their experiences of the world.

We would like to urge our members across the commonwealth to establish media accounts with pages such as these to reflect their local cultures and to inspire their local communities.



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### UPCOMING DATES –

Please Contact Kath Nugent for joining instructions ([kathnugent@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kathnugent@yahoo.co.uk))

Trustees Meeting on Zoom Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2.00pm GMT – Reports to Secretary 2 weeks prior please

Commonwealth Day Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March - the theme is yet to be announced

Informal Meeting on Zoom Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm GMT – All welcome

CASTME AGM Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 TBC

### Some Useful Links

CASTME is a member of ICASE, the International Council of Associations for Science Education. Here is a link to their latest newsletter, where you can read about recent activities.

[http://www.icasonline.net/newsletter/icas\\_e\\_01\\_02\\_2022.pdf](http://www.icasonline.net/newsletter/icas_e_01_02_2022.pdf)

The Royal Commonwealth society newsletter, Commonwealth voices, gives interesting details about the impact of their activities including The Queen's Commonwealth Essay competition.

<https://cts.vresp.com/c/?RoyalCommonwealthSoc/be48e39ea7/d674a4ef1e/d8b4abe093>

[National Centre for Family Learning](#) - a free association for professionals working with families in any learning context supporting the development of children, young people and families. The National Centre for Family Learning is delivered by [Campaign for Learning](#).

**CASTME links Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Educators across the Commonwealth**

**It has a UK-based board of trustees, with regional branches and advisers in the Commonwealth**

**Editor's Note:** For the next edition of this newsletter please send articles to **Rachel Morgan**: [rachelmorg@aol.com](mailto:rachelmorg@aol.com)  
by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023      CASTME website: <http://www.castme.online>

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