

e-Newsletter - Commonwealth Year of Science and Technology 2010

Number 1

<http://www.castme.org>

January 2010

Editorial

CASTME is establishing this electronic newsletter three times a year for member associations. It will disseminate relevant Commonwealth information, details of the CASTME Awards and news from around the world of science, mathematics or technology – including design, make, engineering, food and textiles initiatives – at all levels.

Voices: Commonwealth Women and Education

To celebrate 50 years of CEC and 60 years of the modern Commonwealth through the voices of women go to: www.commonwealthwomensvoices.wordpress.com

This site has stories from many women of all ages and from all parts of the Commonwealth. It is inspirational and a testimony to the power of education and international cooperation throughout the Commonwealth. A few sentences from just one of them given below gives you an idea of their contribution to our world.



Tania Major

If I were to nominate any one factor that has changed my life, without doubt it would have to be my education. I was fortunate to have a mum who valued education pretty much above everything else. I was never allowed to wag school like so many of my peers, and learnt from a young age that education

was serious business.

WorldSTE2010 conference

This is to be held in Tartu, Estonia, 28 June to 2 July 2010 on the theme 'Innovations in Science and Technology Education: Research, Policy, Practice'.

Details are now available on:

www.icas2010.org or on www.icasonline.net.

Mauritius - Welcome to CASTME!

A new Mauritius branch is being launched at the end of January.

Contact Yashwant Yamma at:

y.ramma@miconline.org

Millennium Development Goals

Of the 8 Goals, CASTME is emphasising two of them in its priorities. Details on: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Initiatives for Commonwealth Year of Science and Technology 2010

CASTME is organising special initiatives and a re-launch of the AWARDS scheme. Each article in this newsletter shows the activities that are either in place or being planned for 2010. Monday March 8th is Commonwealth Day so let us know how you are commemorating this and any particular science, technology or mathematics activities you are developing.

CASTME Scholarship

The CASTME Scholarship is an annual award to study a Masters degree at the University of Westminster in London

The scholarship is competitive and high numbers of applications are expected. All applicants must hold an offer of a place on a Masters programme at the University of Westminster. See: www.westminster.ac.uk

The scholarship consists of payment of Tuition fees at the University of Westminster, accommodation, flights, visa costs, an arrivals allowance, (for suitable clothing) a book allowance and a living allowance of £400 per month, consisting of £250 cash and £150 food allowance. The value of this award is c. £25,000. To be a candidate you must be a national of a developing commonwealth country. Country details on: <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/Internal/142227/members/>

The successful candidate will need to:

- demonstrate how the skills and knowledge gained from the course will further CASTME's aims and the millennium development goals (see below).
- show how this award will enable enhanced teaching of Science, Technology or Mathematics in their home country.
- demonstrate academic excellence (2.1 degree at least) and show financial need through a referee of standing who is able to comment on your financial status.
- return home immediately on completion of the Masters degree
- become an active member of CASTME at home.

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The CEY project

CASTME Early Years is an initiative developed by CASTME, one of the affiliates of the Commonwealth Foundation. It aims to help women identify the science, technology and mathematics in their everyday lives and to help their children to talk about them.

Talking Science CEY

Sue Dale Tunnicliffe

There is relatively little research on very young children and how they experience science and technology phenomena which are features of their early play or everyday tasks and actions. The starting point for learning of science and technology and the developing engineering skills at this early age occurs in a child's immediate environment and with people where they live. In these locations children witness everyday activities such as:

- cooking, cleaning, washing,
- various activities with materials such as textiles, wood, and clay,

as well as identifying and being involved with basic life processes such as:

- moving, breathing, eating, excreting and
- the human activities associated with the life processes and beyond.

Immersed in their built, human or natural environments such as their village or neighbourhood, they experience phenomena which contain various amounts of technology and biodiversity from:

- a simple cooking vessel being used on an open fire – to mobile phones;
- natural degeneration – to a manicured garden.

Sue may be contacted on: lady.tunnicliffe@me.com

Sreepur CEY - This photograph was taken in



Sreepur Village, near Dhaka, Bangladesh on Christmas Day 2009. Science and the everyday phenomena and the objects women see and use is discussed

in groups: such as the look and feel of fires, what makes them and what they do with them, with their children's interest in mind.

Editor's Note:

The next edition of this newsletter will be published in May. Please send requested articles to Jonathan Ling at: j.g.ling@btinternet.com by Friday 16th April 2010.

The CASTME/ASE Alexander Award

Lynne Symonds

The winner for 2009 was announced on 6th January 2010 during the International Dinner at ASE's Annual Conference at Nottingham University:

Dr Mrs Manjulaben D. Acharya
Assistant Teacher (science) at
Nakhatrana Panchayati Primary School in Gujarat, India.

The Award is for a woman who has worked to improve the teaching and learning of socially relevant science, technology and/or mathematics education. It is awarded jointly by the Association for Science Education and CASTME.

Mrs Acharya has achieved much with some of the most neglected girls: improving their life chances through increased understanding of the importance of hygiene and thus putting into practice a wide spectrum of basic biology. Real outcomes of her work include:

- improved oral hygiene;
- decreased disease (including sexually transmitted disease);
- a better understanding of nutrition and the importance of vaccination;
- greatly improved personal care, care of babies and good practices during pregnancy; and
- improved family planning.
- setting up 'eco-clubs' in schools where girls plant and care for plants and learn about water conservation.

To date she has worked with 750 girls, bringing measurable outcomes in terms of social change. The people of the villages are grateful to her and credit her with a 'miracle in our health' and say: 'there is no doubt in it' They appreciate the value of using waste to make fertiliser in order to improve crops and are able as a result to grow more food, so helping to tackle hunger.

Nominations for this award are welcomed at any time:

contact Lynne at lynnesymonds@googlemail.com

Generators

CASTME will establish GENERATORS for teachers, parents and others involved in helping learners in practicing and communicating science, technology and mathematics. The emphasis is on participants establishing learning associations through discussing and trying out ideas. The first of these CASTME GENERATORS will be held this year, in Mumbai.