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1 May, 2009

Dear Colleague:

The Commonwealth Foundation is calling for applications from young professionals under the age of 30 years, who are members of a Commonwealth Association and who wish to participate in a study visit to Chennai, India to gain an understanding of development priorities in the Commonwealth on issues such as gender equality, HIV and AIDS, climate change and disability.

This call for nominations is open to young professionals from Asia and Africa. The Foundation wishes to encourage more young professionals to become actively involved in the work of Commonwealth Associations by leading on issues of importance to young people. It is hoped that this initiative planned for July 2009 will contribute towards the Foundation's aim of facilitating the development of a young cadre of professionals that will go on to lead Commonwealth Professional Associations.

It is expected that at the end of this study, the young professionals will use the knowledge gained to develop an activity or initiative which their Association will implement in 2010-2011. The identified activity should demonstrate the clear benefit to civil society at the grassroots.

The Foundation is looking to receive one nomination from each chapter of your membership body that represents Asia and Africa to participate in this study tour. To that end, kindly adhere to the following selection criteria and submit your nominations to the Commonwealth Foundation no later than Friday 22 May. The youth study tour is scheduled for early July 2009. The Foundation will make the final selection of candidates based on the nominations received and will inform the successful candidates and the relevant Commonwealth Association directly.

The objectives of the visit are:

- to bring together a small group of young professionals to examine issues such as gender equality, HIV and AIDS, climate change and disability and how their profession could address the issues
- to develop activities for their Commonwealth Association based on the knowledge gained during the study tour

Eligibility

The following are the minimum qualifications needed to be considered for the youth study tour..

Applicants must be:

- Be under 30 years of age at the time the youth study tour is scheduled to begin
- Be a member of an accredited Commonwealth Professional Association (directly or through membership in a national association)
- Able to demonstrate that they have an interest in global issues and how these relate to their country
- Willing to undertake work with their Commonwealth Association after the visit.
- Have obtained a secondary school degree or equivalent at the time of application preferably in a field relevant development. Continued academic study at the University level would be a advantageous
- Be fluent in English
- Be a citizen of a Commonwealth developing country in Asia or Africa

Priority will be given to candidates that may have a minimum of two years work experience in a developing country in an area relevant to the Commonwealth Foundation's Human Development Programme – Health, Gender, Education, Youth, and Disability.

Deadline

Applications must reach the Commonwealth Foundation **by 22 May, 2009**

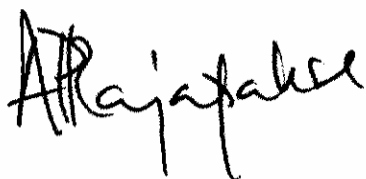
Selection

All applications will be acknowledged. Selection will take place on 29 May. A group of participants will be selected based on the suitability of candidates and to ensure the group reflects the Commonwealth in terms of diversity and balance of men and women.

The aim of the selection process is to be competitive in selecting young persons with demonstrated capacity for learning, commitment to development issues, and willingness to assume the role of, and succeed as future leaders and policymakers in their chosen field of work.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to receiving your nominations in due course. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Elizabeth Pimentel (e.pimentel@commonwealth.int) should you require additional clarifications.

Sincerely,



Anisha Rajapakse
Programme Manager, Human Development