



PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release: Thursday 29 July 2010

India and Trinidad & Tobago triumph in Young Commonwealth Photographic Awards

The Royal Commonwealth Society is delighted to announce the winners of the 2010 Young Commonwealth Photographic Awards.

The theme of this year's competition was 'Science, Technology and Society' and, with more than 200 entries from 36 countries around the world, competition was fierce.

In the 18-30 age category, India's Madhabi Das Bhattacharyya scooped gold with a striking image of tribal leaders from the indigenous Naga community taking photographs on their mobile phones.

In the under 18 age category, 16 year old Kimberly Sue of Trinidad and Tobago was rewarded with the top prize for her image of a young girl dancing to her iPod music in a remote island setting.

A distinguished judging panel including professional photographer, Michael Hallet, and journalist, Helen Perry, praised the standard of the entries. Madhabi Das Bhattacharyya's winning entry "challenges stereotypes", they said and Kimberly Sue's image is "full of energy, joy and life".

Silver and bronze entries were awarded to young photographers from Canada, Australia and Pakistan.

The Photographic Awards are part of the Royal Commonwealth Society's annual Young Commonwealth Competitions which also include writing and film categories.

Click here to see the winning images: www.thercs.org/youth/photoawards

Notes to Editors:

Winning entries - Class A: (ages 18 – 30)

Gold: Madhabi Das Bhattacharyya, India, age 22

Silver: Zoey Heath, Canada, age 24

Bronze: Lewis Jarrett, Australia, age 20

Bronze: Denise Militzer, Canada, age 26

Winning entries - Class B (under 18)

Gold: Kimberly Sue, Trinidad & Tobago, age 16

Silver: Tom Niu, Canada, age 16

Bronze: Atulesh Jha, India, age 15

Bronze: Ghalib Khalil, Pakistan, age 17

Young Commonwealth Photographic Awards Judging Panel:

Dr Michael Hallett, Photographer: Michael Hallett is a professional image-maker and internationally published photographic historian. As a researcher and writer he is particularly involved with the continuing evolution of picture journalism, while as a photographer his 'photographic constructions' are at the visual cutting edge of the digital technologies.

Helen Perry, Journalist: Helen Perry is a journalist living and working in Cyprus. Formerly Deputy Editor of the Middle East Times, the Cyprus Review and a presenter for the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, before moving to Cyprus Helen worked for the Economist's Intelligence Unit in London and for the BBC World Service.

Johan Thom, Commonwealth scholar and artist: Johan Thom is a young South African-born visual artist now studying for a PhD in Fine Art at the Slade, University College London. Thom has exhibited in numerous group exhibitions, biennials and has been the recipient of several fellowships and awards, including the Ampersand Foundation Fellowship, Nirox Foundation Residency, CRIC/Pro-Helvetia Residency and more recently a Commonwealth Scholarship Commission Fellowship.

Before becoming a full-time artist in 2006, Thom taught performance art, African and South African Art Theory and Postmodern Theory at several universities in South Africa. From 2006-2008 Thom was based at the Fordsburg Artist Studios (commonly known as the Bag Factory).

Robert Wooding, Commonwealth Secretariat: Robert Wooding is a Web Content Manager and Producer at the Commonwealth Secretariat, the main inter-governmental organisation of the Commonwealth based in London. In this role, he helps to manage the main corporate website, intranet and the organisation's bank of images. Robert holds a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Birmingham Institute of Art & Design and a Diploma in Web Development from Learning Tree International.

The Royal Commonwealth Society: Founded in 1868, the RCS conducts a range of events and activities aimed at promoting international understanding. Its educational, youth and cultural programmes include one of the world's oldest and largest schools essay competitions, and an innovative international youth leadership programme. HM Queen Elizabeth II is Patron and Peter Kellner is Chairman. Headquartered at the Commonwealth Club in

London, the RCS has some 4000 members in the UK and a presence in 40 Commonwealth countries through a network of branches and Commonwealth societies. The RCS is a registered charity in England & Wales (226748) See www.thercs.org

The Commonwealth: The modern Commonwealth was established with 8 members in 1949. In 2010, it has 54 members with a total population of nearly 2 billion. It is an association of governments and peoples, built around shared language, institutions, challenges, aspirations and values. The Commonwealth promotes democracy, development, and diversity within its member countries and across the world.

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