

Commonwealth Education Awards 2022

Thursday 28 April 2022



The Commonwealth



Commonwealth Education Awards

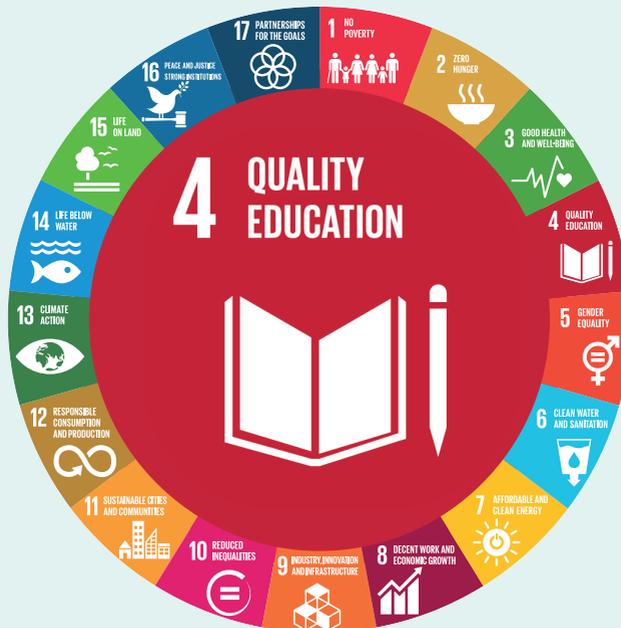
The Commonwealth Education Awards for Good Practice were designed to celebrate promising and innovative practices, and to share these ideas with other countries that can replicate them in order to enhance learning outcomes. This year there were 2,462 entries, of which 640, from 32 countries, met our submission criteria.

The sixth Education Awards come at time when the world is still reeling from the unprecedented impact of the global pandemic which, compounded by conflict and environmental challenges, has caused severe disruptions to education systems around the world.

Education is therefore, more than ever before, a top priority for every Commonwealth country, and the talent and innovation that the awardees bring to the table can help education departments, schools and teachers rebuild and improve their education systems.

The number of nominations by region was uneven, with 592 from Africa, 30 from Asia, 2 from the Caribbean, 7 from Europe and Canada, and 1 from the Pacific.

The 17 globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals



Specific objectives of the 2022 Commonwealth Education Awards

- Identify and draw attention to innovative, inspiring and excellent practices in education and learning that are replicable in different Commonwealth contexts.
- Acknowledge, encourage, motivate, reward and generate enthusiasm within the education sector.
- Recognise education professionals' outstanding work and achievements, and their positive impacts on the wellbeing of learners.
- Highlight initiatives that remove barriers, facilitate access to quality education and learning and build resilience, especially for disadvantaged groups.
- Create an environment that will encourage and sustain investments in education and learning.
- Highlight the outstanding contributions young people are making to achieving the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2022 Commonwealth Education Awards consist of 6 categories:

- Rethinking Education for Innovation
- Rethinking Education for Work
- Rethinking Education for Sustainability
- Education as Pathways to Peace
- Education for Inclusion
- Commonwealth Outstanding Teacher or School Leader.

2022 Commonwealth Education Awards

Virtual Programme

Introduction to the awards

Opening Remarks by the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC,
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

Poem by Leandre Dyer

Winners' video messages and announcements

Cultural act

Completion of winners' video messages and announcement

Closing and credits

Awards Finalists

Afrogineness

Education as Pathways to Peace

Coined from two words – ‘Africa’ and ‘forgiveness’ – the Afrogineness Centre Project is an empowering peace education initiative that offers learning opportunities and psychosocial support to psychologically traumatised youths and students.



Founded by Cameroonian arts therapist, mental health practitioner and mental health rights advocate **Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong**, Afrogineness has contributed to the education sector by creating a safe space where conflict-affected youths or students of all religions, ethnic groups, and physical and mental abilities can heal, connect and uplift each other while learning tolerance and the value of peace.

Afrogineness provides scholarships and legal support, and organises special events. Their psychosocial centre, which hosts 1,500 internally displaced persons and refugees from seven countries, has become a home away from home.

Educate!

Rethinking Education for Work

The mission of Educate! is to develop young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa. The organisation tackles youth unemployment by partnering with young people, schools and governments to design and deliver solutions that equip youth in Africa with the skills to access further education opportunities, overcome gender inequities, start businesses, secure employment and drive development in their communities.



Educate! achieves this through skills-based, post-primary education and employment solutions that improve young people's prospects and positively impact their lives and their educational and career outcomes.

Hawah Nabbuye, country director for Uganda, has been overseeing the implementation of the Educate! leadership and entrepreneurship program in the organisation's newly formed eastern region. Her work supports the enhancement of program quality and the exploration of opportunities for expansion into new countries and communities.

Peepul

Rethinking Education for Innovation

Peepul was founded by CEO **Kruti Bharucha**, who has 20 years of experience in various leadership and management roles in the education, management consultancy and advisory sectors as well as with multilateral institutions. The organisation's vision is to transform learning in government schools so that children of the poorest of the poor are given an excellent, holistic education.



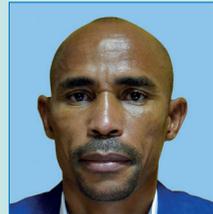
They work closely with national, state and local governments to design and implement high-quality, scalable solutions to improve learning outcomes in the public education system by enabling meaningful teacher–student interaction.

Peepul aims to ensure that children are meaningfully and effectively engaged in the classroom by teachers, and motivated to attend class and learn. The program is having an impact on the lives of more than nine million students in Madhya Pradesh, India.

No One Out

Education for Inclusion

Girl Child Network, in partnership with No One Out Kenya, Christian Blind Mission, Women Fighting Aids in Kenya, Integrated Education for Community Empowerment and Cure International, created the three-year project No One Out. It aims to promote the health and the social and economic inclusion of children with disabilities through improved service delivery, advocacy, and institutional strengthening, targeting the hardest-to-reach children from five resource-poor urban settlements in Nairobi.



Managed by **Dennis Mutiso**, deputy director at Girl Child Network Kenya, the project is specifically focused on boosting the network of hospitals, social protection schemes, rehabilitation and other related services supporting children and youth with disabilities. It also aims to raise awareness of these individuals' challenges and improve their access to education.

Awards Finalists

Peter Tabichi

Commonwealth Outstanding Teacher or School Leader

Peter Tabichi is a science teacher at Keriko Mixed Day Secondary in Kenya. More than 95 per cent of his students are from vulnerable households, and face a range of socioeconomic issues. He gives 80 per cent of his teaching salary to local community projects.

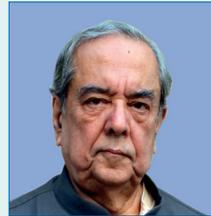


Peter promotes blended learning and has expanded his school's STEM club. With his support, enrolment has tripled in three years, and in 2019 two of his students won the UN Sustainable Development Goal Award at a global science contest in the USA. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Peter set up a project for sponsoring students from underprivileged families to continue learning during and after school closures. It involved providing low-cost smartphones, weekly internet bundles, continuous online mentorship and other learning facilities.

TARA Akshar+

Rethinking Education for Sustainability

The TARA Akshar+ programme was created and delivered by Development Alternatives – a social enterprise founded by **Dr Ashok Khosla OBE**, who is a pioneer in environmental policy and resource efficiency. The innovative TARA Akshar+ initiative has enabled nearly 238,000 women in rural India to read, write and do simple arithmetic. Endorsed by several funders and validated by independent professional evaluators, it has emerged as a game-changer for championing women's empowerment by improving their career prospects.



The adult literacy programme imparts functional literacy in Hindi and basic arithmetic through a comprehensive software with innovative ICT-based technology. Within 56 days of highly informative and entertaining 2-hour classes held locally in the village, the learner acquires invaluable literacy and numeracy skills.

Final Pan-Commonwealth Adjudication Panel

- H E Andreas S Kakouris, High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus
- Michael Walsh, Honorary Consul, Honorary Consulate for the Republic of Kiribati
- Professor Shafie Mohamed Zabri, Director/Minister Counsellor (Education), High Commission for Malaysia
- Dorothy Kamwilu, Education Attaché, Kenya High Commission
- Roxanne M St Clair, Chairperson, Commonwealth Girls Education Fund
- Dr Maisha Reza, Chair, Commonwealth Students Association

The Commonwealth congratulates all the finalists of the 2022 Commonwealth Education Awards, and wishes to thank everyone who has supported the delivery of this year's programme.

Commonwealth Education Awards Team

- Layne Robinson, Head, Social Policy Development Section
- Dr Amina Osman, Adviser, Social Policy Development Section
- Natricia Duncan, Communications and Engagement Officer, Social Policy Development Section
- Charlotte Barcham, Assistant Programme Officer, Social Policy Development Section
- Tamara Babao-Sadgrove, Operations Officer, Social Policy Development Section
- Azimin Ibrahim, Programme Assistant, Social Policy Development
- Adanna Ehirim, Assistant Programme Officer, Social Policy Development Section
- Samson Shaibu-Musa, Assistant Programme Officer, Social Policy Development Section
- Aurelia Bruce, Assistant Programme Officer, Social Policy Development Section

About the Commonwealth Education Programme

The Commonwealth Secretariat's demand-driven education programme reflects the mandates and priorities of education ministers, and the values and principles of the *Commonwealth Charter* and the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Through policy advocacy, technical assistance including toolkits and frameworks, and its strategic partnerships, the Secretariat works closely with member countries and partners to strengthen education systems and policies across the Commonwealth.

In its education projects and initiatives, the Secretariat seeks to ensure that all Commonwealth learners can benefit from equitable and inclusive access to quality education.

The 2022 Commonwealth Education Ministerial Meeting

The 2022 Commonwealth Education Awards will be held during the 21st Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (21CCEM), 27–28 April 2022. The CCEM is organised jointly by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Government of Kenya through its Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

The meeting will focus on action to provide more than one billion Commonwealth citizens with access to good quality education and skills that enable them to contribute to economic development in their countries.

It will be hosted by the Ministry of Education, Government of Kenya. The theme is 'Rethinking Education for Innovation, Growth and Sustainability post-Covid-19'. The meeting, which will take place in 'hybrid' mode, will give ministers the opportunity to deliberate on priorities and emerging issues, and rethink education for recovery post-Covid-19. They will explore innovative approaches that can be adapted by member countries to develop education systems that are tailored to their own unique histories, social structures, systems of government, particular assets and requirements.

For more information, contact:

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