



THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION (IPSC)

The Public Speaking Competition remains one of the most important activities in the yearly calendar of activities of the English-Speaking Union within the global village. In Mauritius, it was launched in 1994 for students between 16 to 20 years. It is aimed at helping young people realise their potential in the art of public speaking and enhance their communication skills in English. Participants acquire confidence to express themselves and they get the opportunity to meet and form friendships with their peers both in their respective countries and across the globe. The National Public Speaking Competition is held in 47 different countries worldwide.

Our national winner, Mr. Advik Goorah, from the College du St Esprit, represented Mauritius at the International Public Speaking Competition held from 17th to 21st May 2010 at HSBC Headquarters in London. This year there were 80 participants who competed for this prestigious international competition.

The participants enjoyed a week of activities including a constitutional experience at Kensington Palace, a tour of the BBC TV Centre, workshops at the Globe Theatre including a tour behind the scenes and a performance of *The Woman in Black* at the Duchess Theatre, Covent Garden.

The theme for the International Public Speaking Competition 2010 was "Speculation on our future". Mr Advik Goorah marked his performance with his speech entitled "Designer Babies: From Homo Sapiens to Homo Futurus". The ESU in Mauritius is thrilled and very motivated that its national winner was amongst the 6 finalists at the International Public Speaking Competition. Advik who is only 17 years old proved that Mauritius has once again put forward an excellent participant in the art of public eloquence. Last year, Sebastien Ng Kuet Leong, representing Mauritius, won the first prize, the very first time a Mauritian won such a high profile competition."

The winner for the International Public Speaking Competition 2010 was Moataz Elisrawi from Lebanon who spoke on what can only be described as a challenging and thought-provoking subject for a young man: "*Ooops, I'm Pregnant... Again*".

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)- N/1208

The ESU in Mauritius was accredited for the CSR Funding in November 2009. The English-Speaking Union relies on the support of its well-wishers and members to help the ESU in Mauritius receive funds so as to pursue its existing activities, implement new activities in its portfolio and in an endeavour to reach out to a wider section of the population for 'Creating Global Understanding through English'. The ESU will therefore welcome corporate donations and sponsorship!.

ESU-MAURITIUS WEBSITE : ESU-Mauritius will officially launch its website by the end of July 2010. The following web address will be dedicated to ESU-Mauritius : www.esumauritius.org It will be linked to the headquarters of the ESU in London as well as other organizations. Our thanks to Mr Ashesh Ramjeeawon for volunteering and for his dedication and time in making this project a reality, despite his commitments.

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Advik Goorah being congratulated by Mr John Botley, Chief Finance Officer of HSBC

THE NATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

The theme chosen by our Headquarters in London for the Public Speaking Competition of this year was "*Speculation on our future*". In 2010 in Mauritius we have witnessed a remarkable increase in students' interest for the Public Speaking Competition. Indeed a total number of 102 students from 67 schools took part in the heats (as opposed to 55 students in the year 2009). We believe that the exceptional achievement of our winner for 2009, Sebastien Ng Kuet Leong, who was the winner of the International Public Speaking Competition 2009, coupled with the remarkable achievement of Miss Tayla Carrim (finalist for Public Speaking Competition 2009), who won a State Scholarship for 2010, have been instrumental to this result. It is our hope that their success will continue to constantly motivate our students and aspire to higher standards of excellence in the coming years. Mr Sebastien Ng Kuet Leong is the first Mauritian to have won this prestigious international competition.

Insofar as the Public Speaking Competition for the year 2010 in Rodrigues is concerned, the heats were held at Rodrigues College. It brought together a total number of 9 students from all 5 secondary schools. Mr Joseph Sebastien Ravina from Le Chou College was the winner for Rodrigues.

In Mauritius, 5 heats were organized across the island. As the competition progressed, 8 students reached the Finals. As in the previous years, the winner from Rodrigues automatically took part in the Finals, bringing to total of finalists to 9. The Finals were held on 17 March 2010 in the Town Hall of Curepipe, with the following finalists:

- Aynesh Kushveer Advik GOORAH, College du St Esprit
- Tiru Niranjanee SAMYNADEN, Forest Side SSS (Girls)
- Sheistah BUNDHOO, France Boyer de la Giroday SSS
- Joseph Sebastien RAVINA, Le Chou College, Rodrigues
- Alvin Mahadeo BABBEA, Mahatma Gandhi Institute
- Emilie WAN BOK NALE, Northfields Intl High School
- Feroza Nayyar JOWAHEER, Queen Elizabeth College
- Noorsabah Bibi SUHABUTH, Rabindranath Tagore SS
- Muhammad Zubeir JOOSUB, Royal College Port Louis

The Finals were generously sponsored by HSBC Mauritius and the HSBC Global Education Trust.

The jury for the year 2010 consisted of Mr John Botley, Chief Finance Officer of HSBC Mauritius, Ms Dawn Long, Director of the British Council and Ms Sharmilla Bhima, President of ESU-Mauritius.

The winner for the Public Speaking Competition 2010 was Advik Goorah from the College du St Esprit with a speech "Tiny hands hold humanity at gunpoint". Ms Feroza N. Jowaheer, from the Queen Elizabeth College, was the runner-up with a speech entitled "Renaissance of marriage in the future".

The ESU would like to express its thanks and gratitude to the following:

- (i) HSBC Mauritius and the HSBC Global Education Trust;
- (ii) the British Council;
- (iii) the British High Commission;
- (iv) the Commission for Education;
- (v) the Rodrigues Regional Assembly;
- (vi) the M.C namely Mr Sanjit Teelock
- (vii) all the Judges: Sir Victor Glover, Kt, GOSK, Patron, ESU Mauritius, Ms. Sharmilla Bhima, President, ESU Mauritius, Mr John Botley, Chief Finance Officer, HSBC, Ms. Dawn Long, Director, British Council, Messrs Brian Davies, Prem Burton, Ganesh Rampat, Jayraj Dayal, Clive Barnes, Parmanand Nunkoo, Aniroodh Ramjeeawon, Hoossain G.M. Rajah, Mrs Marie Josephe Chan-Liat, Mrs Lina So, Mr L.Roussety, Mrs S. Auguste and Mrs A. Waterstone;
- (viii) Rectors & teachers of host schools, participating schools and participants for having contributed to making the event such a success.

COMMONWEALTH DAY OBSERVANCE

Sir Victor Glover, Kt, GOSK, the patron of the ESU in Mauritius, is also the Honorary Representative of the Royal Commonwealth Society in Mauritius.

This year, Sir Victor Glover read the message of Her Majesty the Queen for Commonwealth Day as well as the affirmations during the Final of the Public Speaking Competition held on 17th March 2010.

The ESU is pleased to reproduce the Commonwealth Day affirmations that were read by Sir Victor, as follows:

"We affirm that every person possesses unique worth and dignity.

We affirm our respect for nature, and that we will be stewards of the earth by caring for every part of it, and for it as a whole.

We affirm our belief in justice for everyone, and peace between peoples and nations.

In 2010, with the theme of "Science, Technology and Society", we affirm our collective will be to make enlightened use of the transformative potential of science and technology for the benefit of all the peoples of the Commonwealth.

We affirm our belief in the Commonwealth as a force for good in the world and pledge ourselves to its service, now and in the future."



THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION 2010 – MAURITIUS

The 9th National Spelling Bee Competition for Forms 1, II, III and IV students attracted 494 participants from 128 schools in Mauritius. This constitutes a steady rise in participation as compared to last year's participation that brought together 437 students from 117 schools.

The competition was sponsored by The Embassy of the United States of America, Reinsurance Solutions, Currimjee Foundation, the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd and the British High Commission.

This year, given the increased participation of our students, the ESU had had to organize 6 heats across the island.

As the competition progressed, 9 participants from each category i.e. F1, FII, FIII & FIV, reached the Finals which were held on Wednesday 2nd June 2010 at the Town Hall of Curepipe.

The ESU is pleased to announce the winners as follows:

- Form I : Louis Harel, Northfields International High School
- Form II : Carlyn Sin, Le Bocage International School
- Form III : Fatima Codabaccus, Queen Elizabeth College
- Form IV : Poovineshwaree Sadien, Forest Side SSS (Girls)

Each winner was given a dictionary or an encyclopaedia by H.E. Mrs Mary Jo Wills, Ambassador of the United States of America, a cash voucher from Mrs Constantin, who represented the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd, a medal and a certificate from the Ms. Sharmilla Bhima, President of the English-Speaking Union.

All the finalists received a consolation prize offered by the US Embassy and a certificate of participation from the English-Speaking Union

The ESU would like to thank all sponsors and all the volunteers who helped during the competition:

- Sir Victor Glover, Kt, G.O.S.K., Patron, ESU Mauritius
- Ms. Sharmilla Bhima, President, ESU Mauritius
- Mr Craig White, Public Affairs Officer, US Embassy
- Mr Prem Burton, Vice-President, ESU Mauritius
- Messrs Sanjit Teelock & Rajen Gangoosingh
- Messrs Clive Barnes, Parmanand Nunkoo, Aniroodh Ramjeeawon, Roger Lenk, Jayraj Dayal, Sanjay Gaoneadry, Mrs Marie Josephe Chan-Liat, Mrs Patricia Beedassy, Mrs Viroona Bufion & Ms Geereshwaree Sham

Our thanks also to all host schools, participating schools and participants.

YOUNG COMMONWEALTH COMPETITION ORGANIZED BY THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

The Royal Commonwealth Society organizes film, photography and writing competitions for young people. The ESU organizes these activities jointly with the Royal Commonwealth Society. To find out more about the youth programmes, please contact Ms Claire Anholt on Claire.anholt@thercs.org or Ms Catherine Clark on Catherine.clark@thercs.org (website: www.thercs.org)

Entries for the Essay competition for this year were sent to the Royal Commonwealth Society. Results are expected in October 2010. The prize-giving ceremony will be held in late November / beginning of December 2010 period.

NKABOM 2010 : THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME ORGANIZED BY THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

In the Ghanaian language of Twi, 'Nkabom' means "coming together". It is in fact the name for the Commonwealth Youth Leadership Programme organized by the Royal Commonwealth Society. The programme constitutes a busy 10-day programme and, it brings together some 35 young people throughout the Commonwealth. It offers workshops and learning journeys to help participants develop an understanding of the host country, the region and beyond, peace building and leadership skills training, meetings with prestigious leaders and local young people, peer-led and social sessions to encourage participants to share experiences. The beneficiaries for this year will be known by mid-July 2010.

ESU AND GLOBE EDUCATION CULTURAL SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS AT SHAKESPEARE GLOBE

The ESU in Mauritius is pleased to announce that Mrs Anitah Aujayeb, teacher at the Gaetan Raynal State College, has been awarded a part-scholarship for the ESU Globe Education Cultural Seminar that will be held at the Shakespeare's Globe, London from 8th to 14th August 2010.

Teachers, better than anyone, know the challenges involved in bringing texts to life. This one-week seminar will enable Mrs Aujayeb to learn practical approaches to teaching Shakespeare creatively in the classroom.

The seminar will provide delegates with a unique opportunity to attend three of the Globe's productions. They will interact and work with members of the Globe Theatre Company to get an insight as to how productions at the Globe are conceived and mounted. They will also have the opportunity to discuss the place of Shakespeare in their respective countries and classrooms.



THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION 2010 – RODRIGUES

The year 2010 marks the 6th edition of the National Spelling Bee Competition and is now one of the key activities in the yearly calendar of activities on the curriculum of schools in Rodrigues. Sixty students from Forms I, II, III and IV, amongst all five secondary schools in Rodrigues, took part in the National Spelling Bee Competition 2010 that was held at Rodrigues College on Thursday 17th June 2010.

The competition was once again generously sponsored by the Commission for Education, Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Embassy of the United States of America and the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd. However, over and above our loyal sponsors, we have had two additional sponsors for this year namely Reinsurance Solutions and the Currimjee Foundation.

The ESU is thrilled to announce that the winners for Rodrigues are:

- Form I : Sarah Bint Yassin Albert, Rodrigues College
- Form II : M.K. Fedora Perrine, Le Chou College
- Form III : Anne Gaelle F. Augustin, Rodrigues College
- Form IV : Loyd Krishna Thakoooree, Rodrigues College

Each winner received (i) a dictionary or an encyclopaedia offered by Mr Craig White, Public Affairs Officer of the United States of America, (ii) a cash voucher from Mr Alain Wong So who represented the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd, and (iii) a medal and a certificate from the English-Speaking Union. All participants received a consolation prize offered by the US Embassy and a certificate of participation from the English-Speaking Union.

The ESU wishes to express its thanks to :

- (i) Mr Craig White, Public Affairs Officer of the US Embassy for being the Pronouncer and for making the journey to Rodrigues;
- (ii) Mr Gaetan Jabeemissar, Deputy Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues for attending the competition and for addressing the audience;
- (iii) Mr Alain Wong So, from the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd, for his presence and remitting the prizes for and on behalf of the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd to the winners;
- (iv) Mr Balram Gurriah, Departmental Head of the Commission for Education for organising our trip to Rodrigues;
- (v) Mr William Perrine, for sitting as the jury for the competition;
- (vi) Mrs Suzanne Auguste, British Honorary Consul, Mr Lelio Roussety & Mrs Beth White for their support and for attending the competition
- (vii) the staff and students from Rodrigues College for their warm welcome, and all participating schools & participants.
- (viii) Last but not least, Mr Sanjit Teelock, for acting as our M.C.

BICENTENARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE BRITISH IN MAURITIUS

The ESU in Mauritius is organizing a series of activities to commemorate the bicentenary of the arrival of the British in Mauritius. The first is an essay and drawing competition for students of various age groups. The deadline for the competition is Friday 16th July 2010. More information about the competition may be obtained by calling the ESU office on 208 8591.

ENGLISH DRAMA COMMITTEE

Ms Dawn Long and Mr Rajen Gangoosingh Executive Members, have volunteered to represent the ESU on the English Drama Committee of the Ministry of Arts & Culture. Members of the committee will be expected to attend the Committee meetings, motivate Drama groups to participate in the English Drama Festivals, go through English drama scripts, propose names for the adjudicating panel, attend preliminaries and finals of the English Drama Festival and Evaluation Session.

PUBLIC SPEAKING - PRESENTATION

Northcoombes Library, Rodrigues -

After the National Spelling Bee Competition in Rodrigues the US Embassy and the English-Speaking Union met some 30 students from Le Chou College, Rodrigues College and Mont Lubin College for a presentation on the theme of "Public Speaking".

During the recent Public Speaking Competition organised by the ESU, it was observed that many students were reading their speeches. Mr Craig White, Public Affairs Officer of the US Embassy, explained to students the importance of projecting their voice when addressing an audience and, on the techniques of addressing an audience with confidence.

Mr Craig White suggested that students should prepare their speeches on topics with which they are familiar. He stressed that students should maintain a constant eye contact with the audience. Mr Teelock suggested that students could keep in their hands a palm-size prompt card with leading points of their speech. The students were able to view the speech of Sebastien Ng Kuet Leong, last year's IPSC winner.

The ESU is pleased to announce that the DVD for this year's competition will be available in August 2010. Copies will be on sale beginning of September and a note will be sent to all schools, to this effect.



THE 2010 E-Teacher Scholarship Program – English Teacher Professional Development Distance Learning Program offered by the US Embassy in Collaboration with the English-Speaking Union



This program was organised by the US Embassy and is the very first program that the ESU has launched for professionals. As the name suggests this program is an on-line course for English teachers. It is organised by the US Department of State in collaboration with the prestigious American universities of Oregon and Maryland. Its focus, amongst others, has been honing in the skills of critical thinking of our teachers. Three school teachers, Mr Sivananda Vencatapillay of Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School at Nouvelle France, Mrs Anitah Aujayed from Gaetan Raynal State College and Ms Toolsee Vencatalapillay from Loreto College Port Louis, were chosen by the US Embassy in collaboration with the ESU to follow this course. The programme consisted of seven innovative on-line graduate level classes intended for English teaching professionals worldwide. Our teachers completed the course with success and were each awarded a Certificate by the US Ambassador, Her Excellency Mrs Mary Jo Wills, on 7 June 2010.

This program comes at an opportune time in the history of our education. We are living in times when the twin concepts of continuing education and, of distance learning have reached most of our homes. This E-Teacher Scholarship Program takes forward this concept of learning from home whether whilst working or otherwise.

The ESU considers itself blessed that indeed its ambition to extend its activities and reach out to a wider community has been brought to fruition!

The ESU is pleased to share the experience of two of the teachers:

Mr Sivananda Vencatapillay describes his experience as follows:

"It was a real pleasure for me to have been chosen by the ESU for the prestigious E-Learning course. I was admitted at the University of Oregon to follow the course in Critical Thinking for English Language Teaching (EFL) curriculum. Apart from the acquisition of skills and knowledge, I must confess that this course has also been a formidable human adventure. I got the opportunity to meet many people (virtually of course!!!) around the world with whom I shared our common passion: the teaching of English. One day, while chatting on Skype with someone from Burkina Faso, I complained to him about we, in Mauritius, having 30 students per class and the usual complaint regarding correcting essays and so on. However, Youssouf - that's his name - candidly replied to me: "Brother, I do understand your plight. I, in Burkina Faso, have 160 students per class and I have 7 different classes!!!. But I have to do the job because my country needs me." Needless to say that I felt ashamed. In fact, this is what Critical Thinking teaches us: to be intellectually humble and to always look at problems using various perspectives; to analyse every aspect of the problem before acting and above all, to work for a better society. My only wish would be to strongly encourage all teachers to follow this course. The outcome is most rewarding. A final big thank you goes to ESU and the US Embassy for making this adventure possible".

Mrs Anitah Aujayed described her experience as follows:

"The E Teacher scholarship programme was simply an amazing experience. The intensive online coaching with the help of audio visuals and videos and power point presentations went on for 12 weeks [January to March]. The system all so well organised provided full time online contact and support from the staff concerned who were all faculty members of the university of Maryland, in Baltimore county. We had to have a good understanding of teaching techniques and IT proficiency to be able to manage with great innovative technology used and meeting challenging deadlines for assignments. Besides being a secondary school teacher, I am also a lecturer at the Indira Gandhi Open University and I can sincerely say that I am now more equipped for my lectures as far as the usage of IT is concerned. Moreover my approach to Methodology has broadly widened as new vistas were opened to me through this course. All in all, it was a thrilling experience. The whole system was so well organised that I remained dumbfounded at times to see so much progress and so much concern for others. We have so much to learn from such opportunities".

THE 2011 E-TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME :

The US Office of English Language Programs announces the seventh offering of its acclaimed E-Teacher online courses that train English language professionals in the latest US methods of English language teaching via distance education. Participation is open to teachers who are members of the English-Speaking Union.

Deadline for submitting nominations: July 12th, 2010. For more information, please contact the office of the English-Speaking Union.



KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

ESU Annual dinner: Friday 30th July has been set as the date for ESU annual dinner. Details concerning venue and contribution costs will be forwarded to members shortly. In the meantime, please reserve this date in your diary as we would be delighted to welcome you on this occasion!

International Council Meeting: The International Council Meeting for International Chairmen and Presidents of the English-Speaking Union will be held on 21st October 2010 in Tirana, Albania.

LAUNCHING OF ESU BANGLADESH, MALTA & TURKEY

At the 2009 International Council Meeting, three International ESUs were unanimously ratified for launch in 2010:

ESU Bangladesh was launched on 24-25 January.

ESU Malta was launched on 27-31 May

ESU Turkey was launched 4 June

This brings the ESU family to 53 branches worldwide.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Annual General Meeting of the English-Speaking Union was postponed to Monday 7th June 2010.

The Report of the President was read out and the accounts were approved.

NEW MEMBERS

The ESU in Mauritius is pleased to announce that there are now five new Executive Members who serve on the Executive Committee namely:

Messrs Hoossain Rajah, Ganesh Rampat, Jayraj Dayal, Rajendra Korlapu-Bungaree and Barlen Vyapoory.

We would like to welcome them and look forward to working together to achieve our mission.

MISCELLEANEOUS

ESU has been invited to take part in the following activities:

- 1) Tuesday 2nd March: In the context of the National Day Celebrations, the Municipality Council of Curepipe invited the ESU to sit in the adjudicating panel for a poem competition on the theme "Mauritius My Motherland" intended for Standard VI students. Mrs Marie Josephe Chan-Liat, member of the ESU, kindly represented the ESU on this occasion. Thank you to Mrs Chan-Liat.
- 2) Tuesday 9th March at the Municipality Council of Curepipe: In the context of the National Day Celebrations, an elocution contest, open to students of Form V was organized. Mr Clive Barnes, Executive Member of the English-Speaking Union was delegated to sit in the adjudicating panel. Many thanks to Mr Barnes.

- 3) The Municipal Council of Beau-Bassin Rose-Hill organized a debate competition for students of Lower VI and ESU was approached to sit on their jury panel. Mr Prem Burton, Vice-President of the ESU, sat in the adjudicating panel for the Preliminary round held on Wednesday 26th May whereas Ms Dawn Long, Executive Member of the ESU and Director of the British Council, was a member of the jury for the Finals held on Tuesday 8th June 2010.

4) WORKSHOP ON INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE :

The ESU in Mauritius was invited to participate in a 3-day workshop on the theme of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage', organized by the National Heritage Fund in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture & Human Resources.

The workshop was held on 13, 14 and 15 April 2010 at La Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles. The objective of the workshop was to develop a system of Inventories for Intangible Heritage. Mr Rajen Gangoosingh, represented the ESU, at the workshop.

The speakers for the workshop were as follows:

- (i) Mrs Minakshi Thannoo, Director, National Heritage Fund, whose discourse turned on the activities of the organisation and how other parties could assist in line with the above theme.
- (ii) Mr Munish Pandit who gave an Introduction on Intangible Heritage; and
- (iii) Representatives from Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund, Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture, the Mahatmi Gandhi Institute, University of Mauritius, Mauritius Film Development Corporation

The participants were given an insight into these organisations and how they were collaborating in the process of preserving and documenting on Intangible Cultural Heritage. By the end of the workshop, participants were able to work on a system of developing inventories for Intangible Heritage. It was hoped that this inventory would be used in the long run for archiving purposes.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our Corporate Sponsors and members who have volunteered to help the ESU this year in our various activities. Without your financial support and help, none of the works of the ESU would have been possible.

We would like to invite members to encourage your family and friends to become a member of the ESU. If everyone introduced just one new member, we would double our membership.