



# The International Gold Event Handbook

President's  
Award

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S  
HILLARY AWARD

香港青年獎勵計劃

THE HONG KONG AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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# The International Gold Event Handbook



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# Welcome to the IGE

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*“The Award aims to develop the capability and champion the potential of young people across the world, and so it is natural that the International Award Association (IAA) believes that Award holders have much to offer society. Because of this belief the Association seeks to engage young people at every level and across all facets of its work. The International Gold Event (IGE) is one of the many ways that this is encouraged.*

*As you read this handbook, attend your IGE and continue your involvement over the coming years, you will learn much about the history of the Programme and how it operates today around the world. You will also have the opportunity to do much to guide its future. Whether this is as a National Award Authority (NAA) board member, a local Award group leader or a Youth Representative (Youth Rep) your input is immensely valuable and without people like you committed to contributing your time and energy the Award would be much weaker for it. So – thank you!”*

**Amir Sadeh**  
Youth Rep, EMAS 2008-2011

*“The IGE is an amazing experience. If you are reading this, then hopefully you are going to be part of this experience – as an attendee, staff member, or in some other way.*

*IGEs have evolved continuously since the first one in 1967. Towards the end of the last century young Gold Award holders were asked what they felt an event like this should be about and it became clear that young people wanted a more meaningful event, which could help create lasting change and where their talents and energy could be brought back into the Award from which they had all benefitted. Since the Millennium Gold Encounter (IGE 1999) an explicit engagement of young people after the event has become the norm, with a formalised proposal for youth representation on the International Council (IC) made at IGE 2002 which remains in place today.*

*The IGE has become more central to the IAA as a whole, with explicit staff commitments from various teams of the International Secretariat (IS), and a recognition that it must not stand apart from other IAA work, but should be a key strategy to achieve the wider goals of the Award. Young people now help to design the IGE programme as well as delivering it as staff, and the IAA is committed to seeing this develop in the future.*

*Welcome aboard!”*

**Andrew McMenamin**  
Head of Operations 2000 – 2010  
International Award Association



Amir and Andy.

# History

The International Gold Event (IGE) is a triennial gathering which brings together Gold Award holders from different National Award Authorities (NAAs). It aims to instruct and inspire those who have attained the highest level of the Award to undertake ongoing leadership roles regionally, nationally and globally. The IGE has continued to grow into an exciting event which engages our most valuable stakeholders – Award holders, NAAs, Trustees and the IC.

The first event of this kind, known as The Commonwealth Gold Expedition, was hosted by Canada in 1967 and its emphasis was on expeditionary ventures. Since then the event has grown to encompass soft skills training, service projects and cultural exchange events and the emphasis of the programme is now on leadership development. The Youth Forum and election of Youth Representatives for the International Council (IC) has also been added as a space for meaningful dialogue with governing bodies of the IAA.

So far 12 events have been hosted by different National Award Authorities.

Host NAA	Year	Delegates attended	Countries represented
Canada	1967	27	14
Kenya	1971	34	16
Hong Kong	1974	57	19
Australia	1979	62	23
Mauritius	1983	52	16
Caribbean	1987	72	18
New Zealand	1990	51	12
Indonesia	1995	64	21
Ireland	1999	75	25
Canada	2002	81	30
Hong Kong	2005	89	39
Mauritius	2008	100	29

After the International Forum in 2009 the Sydney Declaration was published. This declaration recognised the valuable contribution young people make to the IAA and included a commitment to further developing opportunities to engage young people. The IGE is a vital opportunity to assist in the development of the skills and knowledge of the next generation of Award leaders and volunteers, as well as facilitating their contribution to the Award. The IGE 2011 will take place in Nairobi, Kenya and will be attended by 150 delegates.

*“The FORUM acknowledged the importance of youth perspectives and their meaningful participation in and contribution to both the governance and programmatic areas of the Award Programme and agreed that the national and regional youth representatives have strategic roles to play in this regard.”*

**The International Award Association’s Sydney Declaration, 2009**

# Purpose of the IGE

The IGE is one of the most important international events that the International Secretariat (IS) organises, in collaboration with the host country. It is the only event that gathers Gold Award holders from across the globe. The IGE is an intensive training programme that brings together young adults, aged between 20 and 30 who have their Gold Award, to further develop character and leadership skills and learn about the Award from a volunteer's perspective.

All Gold Award holders that attend the IGE are selected by their National Award Authority (NAA) and are provided with the opportunity to build self-confidence, gain exposure to a variety of Award issues, meet active Award leaders and volunteers and acquire valuable information and career skills.

*“Going through the Award Programme gives young people the tools to put zest into life. The IGE provides the opportunities.”*

**Charles Cilia, Chairman of the NAA in Malta**

*“All attendees were motivated and ambitious. It was great to get to know them, learn about the Award in their country and share experiences. The great thing was that it didn't matter where we came from, or what stage we were in our lives, or what we did for a living... the baseline was that we all wanted to make a difference and put back into the Award.”*

**Nathan Jones, UK Attendee, IGE Mauritius 2008**



IGE Mauritius 2008 attendees building houses for a disadvantaged community as part of a service section of the IGE programme.

## IGE Aims

The IGE aims to equip attendees with the skills and attributes of value to themselves, their community, their NAAs and the IAA. The IGE will aim to:

- Offer Gold Award holders the opportunity to develop themselves beyond Gold, encouraging them to become effective leaders and fostering a sense of lifelong commitment to service.
- Engage young people in the governance, policy, practice and delivery of the Award.
- Improve the capacity and capability of the Award to demonstrate its impact and raise its profile.



# Before the Event

## Selection Process

Applicants apply to their NAA to attend the IGE by completing an application form available online or from their NAA. Applicants will be assessed on the following criteria:

- They are aged between 20 and 30.
- They have achieved or are actively engaged in gaining their Gold Award.
- They have shown commitment to their local Award Programme.
- They have demonstrated aptitude as a leader, manager or champion.

The selection process, which is led by the NAAs, is key in creating a relationship between the attendee and their local Award staff. Every NAA is automatically allocated two spaces at the IGE and it is recommended that one female and one male attendee be sent, to create a gender balance. NAAs are able to apply for additional places should they have more candidates who they think would be suitable. Once applications have been received the NAA will interview suitable applicants. Applicants who are selected, with the support of their NAA, will begin the process of funding and organising their attendance at the IGE.

Attendees will sign an agreement with their NAA before they leave which will help set reasonable expectations of each party for the IGE and the three years following.



# Briefing

Once attendees have been selected by their NAAs, they are sent information packs from the host NAA which may contain specific tasks for the IGE as well as details about accommodation, travel and other arrangements. These information packs are sent six and three months before the IGE.

Participating in the IGE should be seen as a three year commitment and attendees commit to working towards the goals and projects started during the IGE on their return home. After the IGE attendees are expected to debrief with their NAA and to finalise their agreed goals for the next three years.

The IGE is an exciting but intense event and the better prepared attendees are the more enriching their experience will be.



Here is a list of things attendees should try and find out about **the Award Programme in their country** before arriving at the IGE:

- The history of the Award Programme.
- How decisions are made within their NAA such as National Boards, Committees and Youth Panels.
- How their NAA is funded.
- How many young people are doing/have done the Award.
- Who is doing the Award, such as young offenders or those with special needs.
- National and local partnerships such as the Scouts, Rotary and YMCA.
- Communications strategy for example, use of social online networks including Facebook and Twitter.
- Materials and resources available such as promotional publications and training.
- Existence of training and assessor panels.
- Existence of an Award Holders Association.
- The NAA's long-term development strategy.
- NAA constitution and Adventurous Journeys Regulation.

Here is a list of things attendees should know about their **Regional Office**:

- What the Regional Office does and where it is based.
- Who their Regional Team is.
- What other countries in their Region have NAAs.



*“We need youth who are engaged and can see the Award through a wide angled lens. They need to come to the IGE knowledgeable about the Programme, ready to debate important topics and most importantly, prepared to make a difference in their home country. If you really want to get something from this experience don't be afraid to stretch the boundaries and dream a little. Challenge each other and ask and answer the big question, -‘what if?’”*

**Tom McGrath, International Council Member, Canada**

# The IAA Structure

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association (IAA) is a constituted membership body comprising 62 National Award Authorities (NAAs) and over 250 Independent Operators (IOs). Together, these NAAs and IOs give the Award a presence in over 130 countries around the world. This Association is serviced by the International Secretariat, which is based in London, United Kingdom.

The Award world is divided into 4 Regions:

**Africa**

**Americas**

**Asia Pacific (AP)**

**Europe, Mediterranean and Arab States (EMAS)**

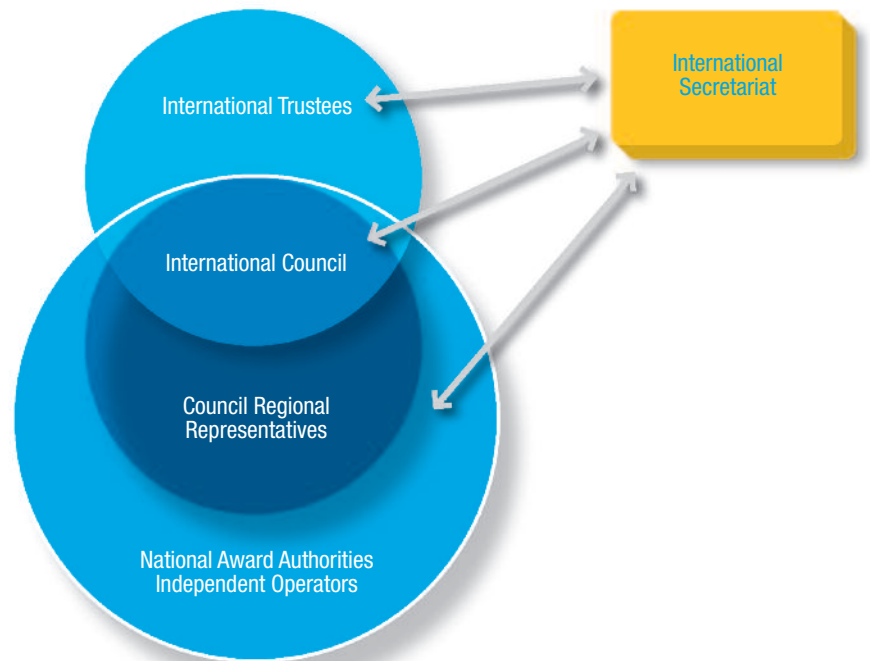
Each of these Regions has a full time Regional Director and staff based in the Region. For the most up-to-date contact details, go to [www.intaward.org](http://www.intaward.org)

Each of the four Regions chooses three NAAs to represent them, the deliverers of the Award, on the International Council, which meets each year and makes operational decisions on behalf of the IAA as a whole. The other part of the International Council is made up of the International Trustees who hold the fundamentals of the Award Programme in trust, and are responsible for the charitable foundation. In addition, Youth Reps elected at the Youth Forum are members of the IC. The IAA meets every three years at the International Forum.

The International Secretariat serves the needs of these parts of the Association and takes direction from them.

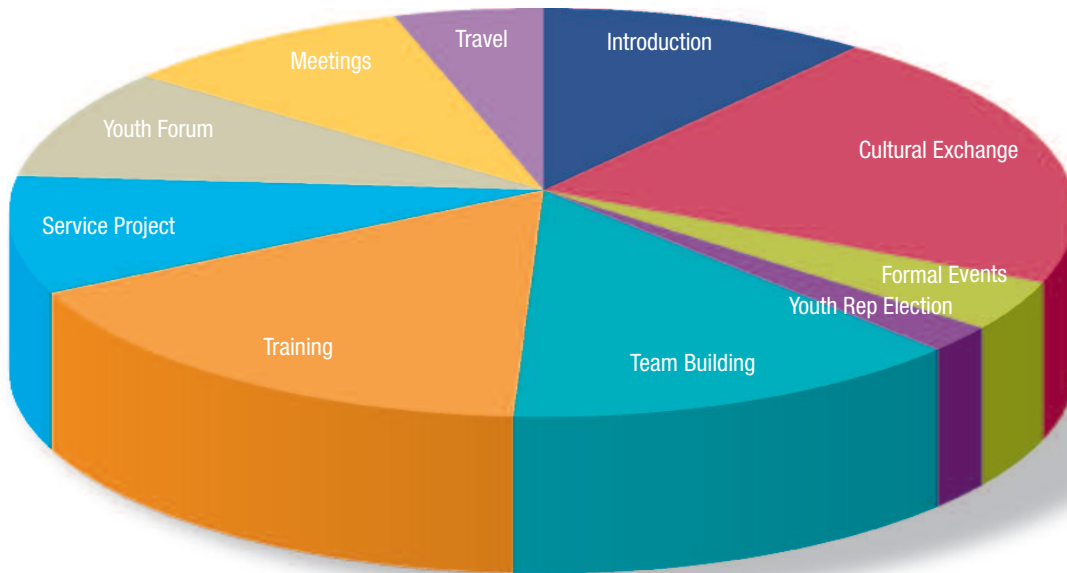
All members of the IAA agree to and are bound by its Constitution, which includes the International Declaration, Fundamental Principles, Operational Principles and Code of Practice.

To find out more about the IAA visit the website – [www.intaward.org](http://www.intaward.org)



# The IGE Programme

## Allocation of time in the IGE Programme



The theme, workshop topics and exact programme of the IGE varies at each event to coincide with the current aims of the IAA and the host country. However, the aim will always be to develop relevant leadership skills to engage young people in the policy and practice of the Award.

The IGE programme spans 2 weeks and attendees are involved in a variety of fulfilling activities. At the beginning of the week attendees participate in team building activities, to enable them to familiarise with each other and build strong and trusting relationships. This is essential for working together during the rest of the IGE.

As part of the programme, the host country will organise local Award projects which demonstrate how the Award operates in the host country and allows attendees to volunteer their time to the local community. Previously the projects have included afforestation, rejuvenating a bird

sanctuary, painting a mural at a community detox centre and assisting at a school for special needs. The practical experience of working as a team to achieve a tangible outcome further develops attendees' skills.

A central part of the IGE programme are the skills based workshops which promote learning, resilience, self-confidence and encourage attendees to recognise their potential to make a difference to themselves, their community and their world.

There are also evening activities which focus on cultural exchange and allow attendees to learn more about the background of their fellow Award holders. The IGE culminates in the Youth Forum.

The above graph represents the time allocated to each activity at an average IGE.

# The Youth Forum

During the second week of the IGE programme there is a Youth Forum. The Forum is an opportunity for meaningful dialogue between the IGE attendees and the International Council. It provides an opportunity for IGE attendees to use what they have learned at the IGE, discuss their proposed projects with the Award family and be part of a strategic plan for the future of the Award.

Key to the Youth Forum is that it is led by the young people. By leading the planning and discussion process attendees are able to develop their leadership skills. The Forum is also an opportunity for the IC to hear youth perspectives on Award issues directly from young people.

The Forum is attended by the IC Regional Reps, Trustees and International Secretariat staff. It provides an opportunity for members to participate in workshops organised by IGE attendees where the attendees share their views on issues that concern them using an array of innovative methods.

The exchange of ideas is integral in achieving successful outcomes from the IGE in which young people, Trustees, National Chairmen and Directors and International staff all have a stake.



*"As chairman of the IC I find these sessions invaluable in making sure the work of the IC is relevant. As a direct result of the Youth Forum, any number of issues can become part of the IC's future work. Also, several members of the IGE will be selected by their peers to directly represent them on the IC for the next three years, so not just continuing the work they started, but also helping to shape other policies and priorities as part of the IC's agenda."*

**HRH The Earl of Wessex KG KCVO, International Trustee  
and Chair of the International Council**

# Who's who at the IGE

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The chart below and the pages following illustrate the various stakeholders involved in the IGE and their particular roles and responsibilities:

<b>Attendees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Attend and participate in IGE</li><li>● Lead Youth Forum</li><li>● Volunteer for three years post IGE</li></ul>
<b>Youth Reps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Attend and participate in IGE</li><li>● Elected from amongst attendees</li><li>● Volunteer for three years post IGE</li><li>● Represent the views of of all IGE attendees</li><li>● Report back to the International Council over three years</li></ul>
<b>IGE Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Includes volunteers and staff from IS and Host NAA</li><li>● Group leaders</li><li>● Lead workshops and activities</li><li>● Work in consultation with the host country</li><li>● Prepare and evaluate IGE</li></ul>
<b>IGE Host Country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● National Award Authority hosting the IGE</li><li>● Work in consultation with the IS</li><li>● Organiser of in-country activities and logistics</li></ul>
<b>Trustees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Trustees of the IAA</li><li>● Attend Youth Forum</li><li>● Attend formal IGE events</li><li>● Members of the IC</li></ul>
<b>International Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Acts for the IAA between International Award Forum meetings</li><li>● Attend Youth Forum</li><li>● Attend formal IGE events</li></ul>
<b>NAA's</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Select attendee allocation for IGE</li><li>● Work with attendees locally for three years</li></ul>
<b>International Secretariat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Works in consultation with the host NAA and other NAAs for IGE activities and logistics</li><li>● Carries out the work of the International Award Association</li><li>● Provides support to NAAs/IOs</li><li>● Encourages youth involvement regionally and internationally</li><li>● Attend Youth Forum and IC meetings</li></ul>

# Attendees

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Attendees are selected by their NAAs to participate in the IGE. They are Gold Award holders already engaged with the Award in their own countries as leaders and volunteers. Through participating in service projects, workshops, training and other activities they acquire skills and attributes of value to themselves, their NAAs and the IAA.

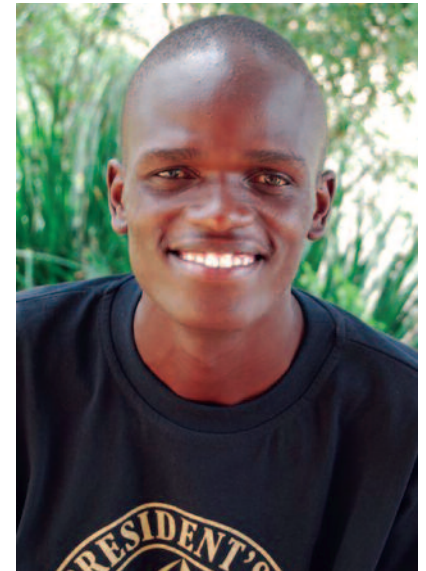
Personal commitment to continue their engagement with their NAA after the IGE is essential. Some attendees participate in the work of their NAA by being Award leaders, assessors or volunteering at local and national Award events.

Attendees elect Youth Representatives from among their fellow IGE attendees. The Youth Rep role entails a greater level of responsibility.



*“If you’re involved with the Award after getting Gold in your country, the IGE is the best way to ‘experience’ the Award world outside your own country.”*

**Marieke Meelen, The Netherlands  
Attendee, IGE Mauritius 2008**



*“I have seen and represented so many people from different backgrounds, ages, and professions etc who are all willing to put a lot of effort into the Award Programme, just because they also know that it can make a difference.”*

**Olunga Otieno, Youth Rep Africa  
2008 – 2011**

# Youth Reps

An additional outcome of the IGE programme is the election of the IC Youth Representatives (Reps). The purpose of the Youth Rep role over the three year tenure is to represent the young people within the decision making body of the IC. Serving on the IC gives young people an opportunity to contribute to the IAA's policy making and planning processes.

Youth Reps are elected by their peers at each IGE to represent the four Regions: Africa, Americas, Asia Pacific and EMAS. Once elected, Youth Reps receive specific training to assist them in their role. There is also a handover from the outgoing Youth Reps.

Youth Reps 2008 – 2011

The Youth Rep role is a substantial commitment. The IC takes place on an annual basis and at least one Youth Rep from each region is asked to attend. In addition to being present and participating in the meetings of the IC, Youth Reps can take on various voluntary roles for the international, national and regional offices.

Youth Reps offer a youth perspective on decisions which directly impact the future of the Award. It is a huge responsibility but also a rewarding one.

*"...being a Youth Rep has meant the world to me as it has given me the opportunity to represent the voice of the youth from my region. I've been able to learn a lot about the Award around the world and in particular in the countries that make up the Americas... being a Youth Rep is an amazing opportunity to help make a positive impact on the Award."*

**Felicia Pickard, Youth Rep Americas 2008-2011**



# IGE Host Country

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Every three years a different NAA bids to host the IGE. The host NAA appoints an IGE Operations Director who is responsible for the organisation of the event beforehand and the day-to-day running of the event. The IGE Operations Director works with a committee that is comprised of individuals who can take on specific responsibilities such as fundraising, government and public relations, transport, accommodation and other necessities as well as having a representative from the NAA.

The host country works in collaboration with the International Secretariat (IS) when developing the programme for the IGE, so that it reflects any chosen themes and will achieve the outcomes of the IGE. The host NAA has an opportunity to provide a flavour and understanding of their national culture and the delivery of the Award in their country. This is usually displayed by local entertainment, service projects, special events and activities and exploring the local outdoors.

For Mauritius, whose NAA hosted the IGE in 1983 and 2008; the event was seen not only through the international lens but

also as an opportunity for Mauritius to raise support and the profile of the Award Programme nationally. It also coincided with the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Gold Award Holders Association (GAHA) Mauritius in 2008.

The IS supported the Mauritian NAA in the planning stages and even after the IGE the supportive relationship has remained strong. Patricia Achille, National Director of the Mauritian Award, believes it is worth hosting the IGE as it will only bring positive things to the country and the volunteers. It also raises awareness about the Award Programme. Patricia describes how the events during the IGE have not been forgotten by Mauritians. They still talk about the volunteers who helped to build a house for them and the ladies of Chrysalide (a rehabilitation centre for female substance abusers) still show their mural painting proudly and always mention that it was done during the IGE. Sponsors have also not forgotten the IGE as some of the companies are still using photos from the IGE for their promotional materials.



*“Your NAA will learn a lot from the IGE and will get a lot out of it too.”*

**Patricia Achille, National Director of the Mauritian Award**

# IGE Staff

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Being an IGE staff member is an active way to contribute to the Award community while meeting new people at the same time. Working at the IGE is very satisfying and staff members get to learn about the Award from a different perspective. Not only do IGE staff members develop a great team relationship with each other, this relationship is also developed with the IGE attendees. Networking with Award holders from around the world is an exciting benefit of volunteering at the IGE. One of the more obvious reasons why people volunteer as staff for the IGE is because they are passionate about the Award and want to give something back.

IGE staff members are chosen because of their knowledge or expertise in an area which is relevant to the programme and an ability to develop leadership skills in others.

*“To see a global community truly at work, where passion for improving the life chances of other young people around the world is a uniting desire, was a great privilege. And when I reflect on my experiences at the IGE I am always inspired.”*

**Rachel Sainsbury (Australia), IGE Staff Mauritius 2008**



*“I think the strength of bringing potential Award leaders from the full spectrum of the IAA together demonstrates the common core of the Award and also the shared experiences of young adults.”*

**Ruth Lowry (Northern Ireland), IGE Staff Mauritius 2008**



# Trustees

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**The Trustees are responsible for the custodianship of the principles of the Award Programme and for the financial management of the Foundation.**

Gregory Belton is chairman of the IAA, former president of the Ontario division and former national president of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Canada.

Gregory explains that attending the IGE is one of the ways that Trustees stay connected to the Award participants. The IGE reinforces how the work of the Trustees translates into results. At the IC, meetings run parallel with the IGE schedule allowing dialogue and collaboration.

The best part of the IGE is the interaction with the IGE attendees. Gregory says, "Hearing their stories reminds

everyone about the importance of development and of the Award and its tangible contribution to civil society".

For Gregory, it reinforces why Trustees must ensure that the IAA, through the International Secretariat (IS) staff have the necessary human and financial resources and support to nurture NAAs and Independent Operators (IOs) to enable the ongoing expansion of the Award into new regions.

There are ten International Trustees and information about them can be found on the International Award website – [www.intaward.org/about-us/trustees/](http://www.intaward.org/about-us/trustees/)



*"The IGE brings to life the importance of the Award and its tangible contribution to civil society."*

**Gregory Belton CVO KHS,  
Chairman of the Board  
of Trustees**

# International Council

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**The International Council (IC) is responsible for the operational management and development of the Award worldwide, discussing and approving the agenda and arrangements for the International Award Forum, ensuring decisions made at the Forum are put into action and accepting qualified NAAs into provisional membership of the IAA.**

The IC was established to act on behalf of the IAA between International Award Forum meetings and formally meets once a year. During an IGE year the programme is arranged so that the IC can benefit from sharing discussion with the IGE.

The IC consists of the Trustees, the Secretary General, 12 regional representatives (to represent the interest of NAAs and IOs), and the Youth Reps.

HRH Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex is the Chair of the IC. He is a Trustee of the IAA and UK Award and also a Gold Award holder.

*"Apart from my specific role with the International Council, there is a more general reason why I think it is important to attend the IGE. If National Award Authorities get their selection process right then the IGE should gather the next generation of leaders from within the Award family, especially those people who have the potential to take on some of the most important roles nationally and even internationally. The IGE provides me with a wonderful opportunity to meet with all the attendees and a point of reference in the future when and if our lives cross again."*

**HRH The Earl of Wessex KG KCVO**



# National Award Authorities

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**The role of National Award Authorities in the IGE is a vital one.**

It is through NAAs that the IGE is promoted to Award holders and that suitable attendees are chosen to attend. An NAA selects attendees to go to the IGE based on standardised criteria set by the IS. In preparation for the IGE, training may be provided by the NAA. This training allows attendees to be fully briefed on the structure of the IGE and expectations that the NAA has of them during and after the IGE. When they return home from the IGE it is through collaboration with their NAA that attendees work to achieve the goals they have set.

*“Participation by Gaisce in IGE 2008 has enhanced relationships between Gaisce, its Gold Award holders and its alumni association. It has created a level of awareness of the IGE that is important for the development of the Award at home and in the international context.”*

**Patrick (Barney) Callaghan,**  
Chief Executive of the NAA in Ireland.



# International Secretariat

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**The IS provides consultancy, advice and support to all Award operators throughout the world and acts as the secretariat of the Association. There are four functional teams based in London (Programme, Communications, Fundraising & Events and Office) and four Regional Offices based in the Regions.**

The regional offices of the IS are an integral part of the IGE. They are the key line of communication to NAAs about any developments to the IGE programme and are vital in offering advice and support to NAAs and their IGE attendees on how to get the most out of the experience.

Following the IGE, the IS is responsible for evaluating the success of the event. Working with attendees and NAAs the IS aims to continuously improve the IGE and ensure that it is providing valuable outcomes for everyone involved.



*“The IGE acts as a catalyst and resource for the Award – supporting the participation of young people in the decision making processes and as a force for action for the Award in the future.”*

**Sue Walker, Asia Pacific**  
Regional Director

# What Happens Next

None of the experiences Award holders receive while undertaking the Award would be possible without the scores of dedicated volunteers, many of whom are former Award participants. Receiving your Gold Award does not signify the end of your Award journey. The opportunities to stay involved are as endless as the talents of Award holders. Award holders could help their local Programme with their website, fundraise for Award groups, or become an assessor or leader and help other young people to complete their Award. Volunteering is not the only way to remain involved in the Award family, many young people are setting up (or joining) Award Holders' Associations in their country or region. These bring Award holders together to share experiences, to support the Award and to address the many social issues around them.

Award holders should contact their NAA to discuss which opportunities are available within their country. It is always good to keep in touch with the friends made at the IGE and to share ideas and projects which are working elsewhere. It is also good to get to know the Regional Directors who will be glad to guide anyone through the process of understanding the international dimension of the Award and what opportunities exist to volunteer. Attendees should never be afraid to ask, there is a lot to learn about the Award, the IGE is just the top of the Award mountain which awaits them.

Jana Farrugia from Malta attended the IGE in Hong Kong in 2005 and was a Youth Rep for the EMAS region from 2005 – 2008. She remains connected to the Award today as an EMAS Regional Trainer and Training Director for the President's Award Scheme in Malta.

Charles Cilia attended the first IGE in Canada 1967 and is now Chairman of the NAA in Malta. Charles has been involved with the Award since his school days, where it inspired him to an exciting approach to life. He has continued to stay involved with the Award along with his wife Marion (also a Gold Award holder). Their enthusiasm for the Award philosophy has meant over 40 years dedicated to the Award.



Since completing their Gold Awards and participating in an IGE, both Charles Cilia and Jana Farrugia from Malta remain involved in the Award Programme on a local, national and international level.

*"Personally it (the IGE) set my 'wheel turning in life'. It opened new opportunities, gave me new vistas, and brought me to a circle of friends who have inspired me with their enthusiasm and approach to life; a group of friends with whom I still relate to this very day."*

**Charles Cilia, Chair of the Maltese NAA, Vice Chairman of IAA  
2009 – 2010, IGE Attendee Canada 1967**

# After the IGE

## Africa

For Peter Anum, a Gold Award holder from Ghana, participating in IGE 2008 challenged him to appreciate his individual talents and capabilities to fulfil his personal goals to the fullest extent in a way that would benefit others. Coming away from the IGE, Peter realised that Award holders can play a very important role by supporting NAAs in running the Programme.

Through the IGE, Peter has been inspired to focus on areas of strategic youth development, establishing and managing youth engagement and building lasting networks among young people in their environments.

He has been motivated to instigate the West Africa Youth Exchange Programme (WAYEP) 2009, the theme of which is 'The Award: Creating Opportunities for Young People in a Sustainable Environment'. This has strengthened dialogue between West African young people, particularly in relation to capacity building and global issues.

Peter's engagement after the IGE doesn't stop at WAYEP, he has also represented the IAA at high level international meetings and facilitated forums on education, social issues, youth involvement, decision making, building sustainable livelihood and climate change.

To make a positive impact on social and environmental issues, Peter has also helped to initiate the National Youth Conference on Biodiversity (NYCoB). The NYCoB is a five-year programme established through the collaboration of major youth organisations in Ghana, including the Award Holders' Association, which will increase awareness around conserving biodiversity for future generations.



*"The IGE was a real life experience. It redefined my purpose, interests and skills for life, deepening my knowledge of the Award. I now have this burning passion to continue volunteering with the Award, and I always find it exciting doing it!"*

**Peter Anum, Ghana Attendee  
IGE Mauritius 2008**

## Americas

Having met at the IGE in Hong Kong and China in 2005, Gold Award holders Rosalyn Yake (Canada) and Ananth Narayanan (India) kept in touch online and organised an exchange visit to Chennai, an impoverished school. Inspired by the exchange, Rosalyn raised \$10,000 to create a scholarship programme. The programme aims to create educational opportunities for students living in poverty in Southern India. To find out more visit [www.starfishscholarshipsindia.org](http://www.starfishscholarshipsindia.org).

The connection made between two Gold Award holders at the IGE inspired Rosalyn to found Starfish Scholarships. The charity continues this tradition by seeking Award participants in both Canada and India to serve as volunteers and directors on its board. It is now giving back to the Award and the scholarships are also intended specifically for Award participants.



**Rosalyn Yake, Canada Attendee, IGE Hong Kong 2005 and founder of Starfish Scholarships.**

# After the IGE

## Asia Pacific

In June 2010 after attending the IGE in 2008 David Speirs, a Gold Award holder from Australia became involved in the Peter Cruddas Social Innovation Initiative (PCSI). The PCSII was established by the Award's Global Benefactor, British entrepreneur Peter Cruddas, to showcase selected Gold Award holders from around the world and give them the opportunity to learn skills that will assist them to upscale the Service project they carried out as part of their Gold Award.

David's participation in the initiative was focused on his involvement in Friends of the Lower Field as part of his Service project element of the Award.

Friends of the Lower Field River was established in 2006 when local residents living in Hallett Cove became concerned about the amount of rubbish in the river and the surrounding area. What followed has become a labour

of love and has resulted in the revitalisation of the river, its estuary, a surrounding reserve and remnant dune system.

David's role has focused on both the practical works on the site, and the community engagement activities. The group is passionate about bringing the wider community along on their journey, without whom a lasting difference is unlikely. As well as planting thousands of trees, shrubs and grasses over the last four years, the group has connected with local schools, run a successful youth forum, launched a website, produced 20,000 brochures to raise awareness along the entire length of the catchment, and developed a strategic plan to guide the group's vision in the coming years. More information about the PCSII can be found at <http://www.intaward.org/about-the-award/Peter-Cruddas-Social-Innovation-/>



David Speirs, Australia Attendee IGE Mauritius 2008. Sits on the National Board to represent the views of young Australian Award participants.

## EMAS

Ohad Davidow and Lilach Lahat from Israel attended the IGE 2008 in Mauritius. A meeting was held regarding the idea of setting up a Gold Award Holders' Associations (GAHA). For the months after the IGE, several Gold Award holders of the Israel Youth Award met and put together general plans for the GAHA in Israel, including descriptions of necessary roles, structure, vision, goals, projects and more.

The Israeli NAA has been invaluable to Ohad and his team in these first steps, assisting them with resources, manpower and information as needed. Beyond the functionality of this assistance, this cooperation has been important as this is the way they see the GAHA working in the future – not as a completely independent organisation but as a semi-independent body working hand-in-hand with the NAA. Ohad believes that this is the best way of realising the GAHA vision and goals, and also the NAA's development in the country.

The experience of the IGE was particularly valuable for Ohad and Lilach in setting up the GAHA – especially the workshops about 'Connecting', 'Telling the Story' and 'Making a Difference'. This, combined with the spirit of the IGE, and meeting Gold Award holders from so many different countries, was what started the organised attempt to create a GAHA, and what ultimately assisted them in succeeding.

*"We feel that the GAHA will advance the Israel Youth Award... improve the Award experience for the participants doing the Programme and for the Gold Award holders themselves."*

**Ohad Davidow and Lilach Lahat,  
Israel Attendees IGE Mauritius 2008**



# Glossary

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<b>Attendee</b>	A young person selected by their NAA to participate in the IGE.
<b>Award Holder</b>	A person who has gained The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award for Young People at any level. The Award may be known by another title depending on the country in which the Award is undertaken.
<b>Award Participant</b>	A young person who is taking part in the Award.
<b>International Award Association (IAA)</b>	The constituted membership body of NAAs and IOs.
<b>International Council (IC)</b>	The council which was established to act for the IAA between International Award Forum meetings. It meets once a year and is chaired by a Trustee, currently HRH The Earl of Wessex.
<b>International Gold Event (IGE)</b>	The IAA's triennial global youth event. First held in 1967, the event provides opportunities for Gold Award holders to develop post Gold.
<b>Independent Operator (IO)</b>	A school, youth organisation or similar Award unit that operates the Award in a country where no NAA is established. IOs are licensed by the IS.
<b>National Award Authority (NAA)</b>	The licensed body running the Award Programme on a national basis in a country. Only one NAA is licensed in each country.
<b>Regional Office</b>	The IAA is divided into four regions: Asia Pacific (AP), Americas, Africa and Europe, Mediterranean and Arab States (EMAS). Each region is supported by a regional office which is part of the International Secretariat.
<b>Youth Representative</b>	Youth Reps are chosen by their peers at the IAA's triennial IGE to represent the voice of young people on the IC. They serve a three-year term.

# Closing words

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*"Attending the IGE is one of the ways that we (Trustees) stay connected to Award participants: to hear delegates' stories and be reminded just why we're in the business of development.*

*Trustees like me are responsible for Award policy, as well as reviewing the Association's performance and strategy. We are here to ensure that International Secretariat staff have the necessary human and financial resources and support to assure the Award's quality and enable its ongoing expansion into new regions. But we couldn't do it without you: the National Award Authorities, the Independent Operators, the young Award holders, and supporters of every kind.*

*To maximise the impact of the IGE, we need to keep the broader context in mind: the future of the Award as a whole. If the 2009 International Award Forum in Sydney determined the 'what,' we now need to look at the 'how'. I am particularly excited that the IGE is now more youth-led than ever before, and that there is an enhanced role for Youth Representatives in the governance of the Award. Because if the Award teaches us anything, it's that we learn by doing. I have full confidence that our delegates will carry the learning back to their organisations and communities."*

**Gregory Belton CVO KHS, Chairman of the International Award Association, former President of the Ontario Division and former National President of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Canada.**

*“The IGE is one of the most rewarding events for all concerned. Having been present at the last eight IGEs, I have personally witnessed the transformational impact of these events on Gold Award holders and IGE staff as well as on NAAs. From such events have come some of the outstanding leaders and senior volunteers in the Award family and I am sure that the IGE will continue to equip future generations of Award leaders with skills, attributes and the motivation to support the future development of the Award.”*

**Gillian Shirazi LVO, Secretary General,  
Gold Award holder.**

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The International Award is an exciting self-development programme available to all young people worldwide equipping them with life skills to make a difference to themselves, their communities and the world. To date over 7 million young people from over 130 countries have been motivated to undertake a variety of voluntary and challenging activities.

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Registered Office:  
Award House,  
7-11 St Matthew Street,  
London SW1P 2JT

Tel: +44 (0)20 7222 4242

Fax: +44 (0)20 7222 4141

[www.intaward.org](http://www.intaward.org)