**Biography Siddel Ramkisson**

Siddel is a 22-year-old philanthropist with over 6 years of experience in civil society work and volunteerism. A recent graduate of the University of the West Indies, he holds a BSc Management Studies minors: International Relations and Psychology, and he is also the founder of a youth activists group called Overall Youth Empowerment and Action (OYEA) which does high impact work with youth in South Trinidad.

Highlights of his community work and volunteerism are as follows:

* Volunteer - Mustard Seed Communities, Jamaica, 2010
* Founder - Director - Overall Youth Empowerment and Action, 2010
* Global Changemaker - Global Changemakers Organisation (formerly under the Britsih Council), 2011
* Delegate - Model United Nations - Rotary Club of Port of Spain, 2012
* Youth Ambassador - Partner of the Americas, 2012
* Delegate - UNAOC Youth Forum and 5th Global Forum, 2013
* Secretary/Executive Member - Evening and Part Time Society - UWI, 2015
* Member - United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, 2015
* Facilitator/Delegate - Global Youth Consultation - World Humanitarian Summit, 2015
* Delegate - World Humanitarian Summit Youth Pre-Forum, 2016
* Delegate - World Humanitarian Summit, 2016

He plans to take the next year to focus on his philanthropy work, and exploring the Queen’s Young Leadership Program to its fullest, before returning to his studies.

**Siddel’s Statement on Winning the Queens Award**

I have grown up surrounded by volunteering and social work, largely due to my parents and their involvement with different organisations. However, in 2010 when I volunteered with Mustard Seed Communities, in Jamaica a true passion and love for social work was born. The love I felt from the kids I worked with really mandated a paradigm shift. Under the influence of my father, at age 16, and shortly after my return from Jamaica, I was able to work with several young people to form the Overall Youth Empowerment and Action, which became the basis for most of the work I have done, and has allowed me the opportunity to experience and participate in social action both locally, and internationally.

My international experiences have allowed me the opportunity to participate in major youth related activities. These activities were geared toward including youth at levels that they might have previously been excluded, with issues ranging from migration to media to, most recently, the humanitarian response.

I have just completed my undergraduate degree, at the University of the West Indies, with a BSc. in Management Studies and Minors in International Relations and Psychology. The latter being two fields of real personal interest. Future studies hope to explore international relations and diplomacy, with a focus on policy development and implementation, especially at the youth level. I firmly believe that young individuals need to be actively involved in decision-making processes. I also have a deep love for Tourism and hope to incorporate that sector into my future studies.

Having just completed work with the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth for the World Humanitarian Summit 2016, I have a keen interest on ensuring that Trinidad and Tobago is able to properly acknowledge the need for humanitarian response mechanisms. Issues such as disaster risk reduction and humanitarian aid are the forefront of the work being done, whilst ensuring youth involvement. The Overall Youth Empowerment and Action continues to be involved in this work, but maintains a focus on the environment, an aspect that has been one of the most successful ventures of the organization.

My belief is that I have gathered a plethora of experience that has contributed to my ability to organise and implement projects. My work experience in social media marketing, and work on varied societal and international issues continues to shape me as an individual, ensuring that I am able to think analytically, and produce viable and creative solutions to problems posed.

I have always gained inspiration from the Queen, largely due to her ability to adapt when times have dictated it. It is my goal to sustain a high standard, with conviction, whilst being able to adapt to a changing world to ensure that the greatest impact can be made.

It really is an indescribable feeling to know that, at 22, I have received such an honour. It is surreal. This award, with its tailored package of training, mentoring and networking, and the one-week residential programme will allow me the opportunity to further contribute to youth development in Trinidad and Tobago. I look forward to being part of such an inspiring network of young people, working towards similar goals.