The Nexus Commonwealth Awards recognise outstanding contributions to the countries, organisations, citizens and values of the Modern Commonwealth. Celebrating the role that individuals and organisations play in strengthening the Commonwealth and helping it to make a difference to people’s lives, the 2013 Awards will be announced at Merchant Taylors’ in London. Entries will be judged by an eminent panel of experts from across the Commonwealth network, and must be received by 22nd May 2013.

Nexus Commonwealth Making a Difference Award

There are over 60 accredited Commonwealth organisations who between them engage individual and organisational stakeholders of all types – from young people through to women entrepreneurs, universities and government officials – and deliver projects in every conceivable area of development, diversity and democracy. While resource limitations usually restrict the scope and reach of these projects, the ‘Commonwealth Factor’ means that many of them could be replicated across other countries and groups, if there was sufficient awareness of them.

This award recognises efforts to change the lives of Commonwealth citizens, transform communities or strengthen institutions. The award is open to all accredited Commonwealth organisations, and judges will look in particular at projects that have delivered impact relative to budget, are sustainable, and have the potential to be scaled up or replicated across the Commonwealth. Submissions may be any ‘below the line’ project (i.e. not a communications exercise, as these projects would qualify for the ‘Communicator of the Year Award’) and could include workshops, advocacy programmes, capacity building exercises, retreats, skills gap initiatives or network facilitation. Submitted projects may have been delivered in partnership with external agencies, or benefited from external grants or sponsorship, but they must have been originated by an accredited Commonwealth organisation. Organisations may submit multiple entries.

Nominations should be sent to difference@nexuscommonwealthawards.org by 22nd May 2013, and include:

- **Name and contact details**

- **Name of project nominated and project leader(s)**

- **Project budget (if possible)**

- **Written justification for the nomination/submission (300 – 750 words)**
Nexus Commonwealth Communicator 2013

How does one define the Modern Commonwealth? Although Commonwealth programmes, organisations and networks have touched the lives of millions of people, the Commonwealth is often misunderstood, and even within the Commonwealth family, there is little consensus as to what ‘the Commonwealth brand’ might be, or even if such a concept makes sense. One of the Commonwealth’s undoubted strengths, however, is its range and diversity – 2.1 billion citizens, 54 member countries, nearly 90 official organisations - but this sometimes makes the job of communicating the Commonwealth even more challenging. The Commonwealth’s multi-faceted nature means that there are many individual success stories involving athletes, young people, civil society, governments, businesses and institutions, but the common thread linking these is not always apparent. Is the Commonwealth a grouping of countries, a post-colonial legacy, a convening power, a network of networks, a development enabler, or a set of shared values and experiences? Or all of these?

This award recognises efforts to communicate the spirit, values and activities of the Modern Commonwealth, particularly to audiences beyond the ‘Commonwealth family’. The award is open to all official Commonwealth organisations and their employees. Submissions may be either a single communications piece or a wider communications campaign, and can be in any medium, including blogs, articles, publications, websites, videos, posters, audio or press releases. Organisations may submit multiple entries.

Submissions and nominations should be sent to communicator@nexuscommonwealthawards.org by 22nd May 2013, and include:

- Name and contact details of nominator
- Name of individuals or organisation nominated
- Name of communications piece/campaign
- Representative copy of communications piece / campaign
- Written justification for the nomination/submission (300 – 750 words)
Nexus Commonwealth Enterprise 2013

Commonwealth member countries have many things in common, from the widespread use of the English language through to similar systems of governance, education and law. Member governments also commit to upholding shared values of development, democracy and diversity.

These shared contexts underpin the essence of ‘the Commonwealth family’, and provide Commonwealth citizens in the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific with the opportunity to meaningfully connect and collaborate across continents and cultures. While there are many formal Commonwealth networks building on this sense of ‘family’, there are also many unrecognised organisations and projects that utilise these shared contexts to forge intra-Commonwealth connections between geographically distant individuals and cultures.

This award recognises organisations outside of the formal Commonwealth network which, by building on Commonwealth values and shared systems, connect people and communities across borders. Nominated organisations may be linking programmes, businesses, civil society organisations, social enterprises or academic institutions, but they must be demonstrably committed to the core values of the Modern Commonwealth.

Nominations should be sent to enterprise@nexuscommonwealthawards.org by 22nd May 2013, and include:

- Name and contact details of nominator
- Name of organisation or project nominated
- Any attachments to substantiate the nomination
- Written justification for the nomination/submission (300 – 750 words)

Nexus Commonwealth Investor 2013

Research shows that levels of trade between Commonwealth countries are between 33% and 50% higher than between members and non-members. Moreover, expanding a business or replicating project success across Commonwealth borders is significantly easier than penetrating non-Commonwealth markets. There is, perhaps surprisingly, no ‘Commonwealth trade bloc’ or meaningful Commonwealth element to WTO, however: this phenomenon can be explained by Commonwealth members’ compatible systems of governance and law, the fact that member countries have shared commitments to democracy and development, and the widespread use of English in member countries.

This award recognises companies that have built on the facility of intra-Commonwealth trade to drive growth across the association. Nominated companies must have operations in at least 6 developing or emerging Commonwealth economies (i.e. those with GNI per capita below US$20,000). Nominees must be committed to exemplary corporate social responsibility across
their operations (and in particular core business and/or outreach activity that fosters the Commonwealth values of development, democracy and diversity), and must also have demonstrated the vision to utilise the ‘Commonwealth factor’ to deliver growth for member countries, and transform the lives of Commonwealth citizens.

Nominations should be sent to investor@nexuscommonwealthawards.org by 22nd May 2013, and include:

- **Name and contact details of nominator**
- **Name of company nominated**
- **Any attachments to substantiate the nomination**
- **Written justification for the nomination/submission (300 – 750 words)**

**Nexus Commonwealth Lifetime Contribution**

This annual award, presented at the discretion of the judging panel, will recognise an eminent individual who, over the course of their career, has made an outstanding contribution to the ‘Commonwealth family’, either through his or her work with official Commonwealth organisations, or through their tireless promotion of Commonwealth values.

(NB: This award is not up for nominations.)

**Nexus Commonwealth Outstanding Contribution**

Presented to an individual who has demonstrated long and tireless service to one or more Commonwealth institutions.

(NB: This award is not up for nominations.)