Winner: Sir Roy Marshall

Presented by: Journalist and president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association, Rita Payne

Citation: Sir Roy Marshall is an accomplished lawyer, scholar, academic administrator and diplomat; who has served at senior level with distinction in three different Commonwealth regions.

A Barbadian, he trained in law being called to the Bar in London in 1947. His subsequent career was one of huge distinction - Professor and Dean of Law at the Universities of Sheffield and Ife in Nigeria; Vice-Chancellor of the Universities of the West Indies and of Hull. In between these Vice-Chancellorships he was Secretary General of the UK’s Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. His final post was as High Commissioner for Barbados in London. He was knighted in 1974.
Beyond these achievements we specially acknowledge with gratitude this evening his outstanding contribution in a voluntary capacity to Commonwealth co-operation in education. He chaired, for over a decade in each case, the inter-governmental Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee, and the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Student Mobility and Higher Education Co-operation; served on the Boards of the Commonwealth of Learning, the Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth Institute, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities; and for six years he chaired the Council for Education in the Commonwealth.

The Nexus Commonwealth Outstanding Contribution Award recognises an international figure who has dedicated their lifetime’s work to fostering the Commonwealth values of respect and understanding, and to promoting development, democracy and diversity in one or more Commonwealth member countries.