



## *Sir Shridath receives Commonwealth Award*



Sir Shridath Ramphal was conferred with the Commonwealth Life Time Achievement Award 2013 at a Gala Ceremony in London on Thursday June 26.

The award was presented to Sir Shridath by the Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma, before an audience of some 200 persons representing various organisations in the Commonwealth.

Born in Guyana, Sir Shridath has served in several distinguished positions throughout the region in his lifetime. He served as Commonwealth Secretary General for an unprecedented 15 years, in three consecutive terms between 1975 and 1990.

Sir Shridath has served on the Eminent Persons Panel of the Caribbean Awards for Excellence since inception in 2005. He has been a part of the selection of 21 laureates from the Caribbean and its

diaspora in the US and UK.

The award citation read, in part:

*Nelson Mandela said of Sir Shridath that he is one of those men who have become famous because in their fight for human justice, they have chosen the entire world as their theatre.*

*He placed the Commonwealth at centre-stage in the common challenges that confronted the world and he effectively fashioned a consensus that allowed the Commonwealth, even though it could not negotiate for the world, to help the world to negotiate.*

*Under his stewardship, the Commonwealth tackled poverty and development, of climate change and disarmament, of bridging the divide between countries of the North and South and seeking new paths for international co-operation.*

*Prof Caryl Phillips  
featured on BBC*



Our 2013 Laureate in Arts & Letters, Prof Caryl Phillips of St Kitts & Nevis, was featured on the BBC programme. Talking Books, on July 26. This was a re-broadcast of an interview with Razia Iqbal in 2011, where he talked about his relocation to the US, his early life in England, and his journey to becoming a writer. The interview can be found here: <http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20130726-writing-from-the-outside>.

Prof Phillips is the author of several successful novels, non-fiction, screen, stage and radio plays. He emigrated with his family from St Kitts to the UK at the age of four months, and grew up in Leeds. He is one of the most highly regarded Caribbean writers of this generation, and is a professor of English at Yale University in the US.



*Dr Kim Johnson  
Represents Trinidad &  
Tobago at Carifesta*

Our 2011 Laureate in Arts & Letters, Dr Kim Johnson, was part of a contingent of 100 Trinidad & Tobago artists, writers, and cultural practitioners who represented the country at the recent Carifesta held in Paramaribo, Suriname, from August 16-25.

Dr Johnson is a pan historian and a filmmaker. He has published several influential works on the steelpan and is presently making a series of documentary films on the topic.



*A Departure*

Fr Ronald Mendes, a member of the ANSA McAL Foundation board and the Trinidad & Tobago Nominating Committee, has resigned both positions. He has moved to Ottawa, Canada, for two years, to study canon law.

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