

IDB Cultural Center

Inter-American Development Bank
1300 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington DC 20577

WINNERS OF THE
"CREATIVE WRITING IN THE CARIBBEAN"
LITERARY COMPETITION

Chimere Jodi Gibson



Laelia Gitanjali Ajodhia



Jhoemae A. Walker



Vanesa Alicia Chee



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**PRIZES AWARDED BY THE CULTURAL CENTER
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

Washington DC, October 2003

The Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB Cultural Center) is pleased to announce the winners of a **Short Story Competition** held in 2003.

The **objectives of the competition were** to:

- 1) **enhance awareness** and broaden the discussion of economic and social factors that affect the Caribbean;
- 2) **encourage young people** to use their creative abilities to formulate viewpoints; and
- 3) **inspire the public** to consider possible alternatives for society to improve and grow.

First prize of \$1000 was awarded to Ms. Chimere Jodi Gibson of **Trinidad & Tobago** for her story "Deception" about the abuse of women;

Second prize of \$750 was awarded to Ms. Laelia Gitanjali Ajodhia of **Guyana** for her story "Diane" about the consequences of poverty;

Third prize of \$500 was split between Ms. Jhoemae A. Walker of **Bahamas**, who won \$250 for her story "The Broken Glass Window" about the ills of the ghetto; and Ms. Vanessa Alicia Chee of **Trinidad & Tobago**, who won \$250 for her story "The Dark Side of the Moon" about social injustice.

Five young writers won Honorable Mentions without a cash prize:

Ms. Susanna Campbell and Ms. Nicola Arthurs of Jamaica; Ms. Carla G. Bascombe of Trinidad & Tobago; Mr. Osmer E. Balam of Belize; and Ms. Shameza Husain of Guyana.

The competition was open to all writers between the ages of 15 and 19 years old who were born in and are citizens of English-speaking Caribbean member countries of the IDB, which include Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. A press release announcing the competition was mailed in February to 150 high schools in the participating nations and to the IDB Representative's Offices in those nations.

The stories were required to range from 3 to 5 pages in length, and relate to aspects of the economic and social reality of the Caribbean – for example: education, health, housing, cultural heritage, cities, work, justice, security, government, multiculturalism, social inclusion or exclusion, race, ethnicity, environment, and public space.

A total of 44 stories were submitted from 7 Caribbean nations. The winners were selected from 17 finalists by **three judges**: Dr. Evelyn J. Hawthorne, Associate Professor of English Literature and Director of the Caribbean Studies Program at Howard University in Washington, D.C.; Roger Hamilton, Editor-in-Chief of IDBAmérica Magazine; and Anne Vena, Concerts and Lectures Coordinator of the IDB Cultural Center.

The prizes will be awarded to the winners by the IDB Representative in each country, and the winning stories will be published on the IDB Cultural Center web page in early 2004 at www.iadb.org/cultural/

Photographs of the top 4 winners and their stories are available to newspapers and literary magazines for reproduction without charge. For more information, please contact Anne Vena, IDB Cultural Center, annev@iadb.org, 202-623-3558.

For general information about the IDB Cultural Center and its programs, visit: www.iadb.org/exr/cultural/

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