



# **THE BAHAMAS ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

## **Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries**

### **COMMITTEE LAUNCHES NATIONAL ESSAY AND POSTER CONTEST Students Urged to Enter**

NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS—The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission announces the October 1<sup>st</sup> start of the national poster and essay competitions entitled, "Sustainable Development - My Visions of a transformed Bahamas in the 21st Century". The contest is part of National preparation for the World Summit Meeting on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, next year.

In advance of the meeting, the United Nations (UN) Secretariat has asked participating governments to organise national competitions to foster an increased understanding of environmental issues, particularly the notion of "sustainable development". This has been defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The **poster competition** is divided into two categories: Category A is for ages 5-8 and Category B for ages 9-11. The **essay competition** is divided into three categories: Category C ages 12-14, Category D ages 15-17 and Category E ages 18 years and over. Applicants are asked to draw posters and write short essays (a minimum of 300 words for Category C, 450 words for Category D, and 700 words for Category E) on what they see as the opportunities and challenges regarding the future of sustainable development in The Bahamas.

Only one entry per person is permissible for each contest. The Contest officially starts October 1st, 2001. For more information on the contests, contact the BEST Commission at 242-327-4691 or at [www.best.bs](http://www.best.bs).

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The most inspiring posters and essays will be sent to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, which will review entries from around the world and award first, second, and third prizes in each category. A collection of all winning essays will be exhibited at the 2002 Summit and will be incorporated into a special UN publication.

"We hope that schools and young people of The Bahamas will choose to be apart of this historic international meeting by participating in these two contests", said Mr. Colin Higgs, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and The Bahamas' Ambassador of the Environment. "The ideal of sustainable development can only be realized if every member of a community understands that he or she is an integral part of the process. Our intention is to ensure that young people take part in the debate, because the future health of our environment, as we all know, is in their hands."

The BEST subcommittee members in charge of the national competitions are Ms. Annette Dempsey, Assistant Marine Mammal Director and Director of Education at Dolphin Encounters; Mrs. Nakira S. Gaskin-Wilchcombe, Supervisor of Computer Operations of the BEST Commission; Ms. Kelly Meister, Bahamas Media Consultants Ltd.; Mr. Alpheus Ramsey, Director of the Bahamas National Pride Association; Mrs. Karen St. Cyr of the Ministry of Education and Mrs. Beverly J. T. Taylor, Assistant Director of Education, Science and Technology at the Department of Education.

Applications for both competitions can be picked up at the BEST Commission, located on the second floor of the Sir Cecil Wallace Whitfield Building on West Bay Street, the Ministry of Education office of the Assistant Director of Education, Science and Technology, the Dolphin Encounters ticket counter at the Paradise Island Ferry Terminal and the Bahamas National Pride Association office located on West Bay Street.

For more information about the Johannesburg Summit and Sustainable Development issues, visit [www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org), [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21), or [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21).

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