

Print Journalists Dominate 2007 UNFPA Media Awards

Asha Javeed, a reporter at the Trinidad Guardian, topped a group of young newspaper journalists from across the region who dominated the UNFPA Caribbean Media Awards this year. The annual event, which recognises excellence in reporting on population issues, was held on November 21, 2007 at Queen's Hall in St. Ann's, Trinidad.



Javeed earned the top platinum award for her story "Tourism Threatened", which focused on the issue of climate change. Gareth Manning and Daraine Luton from The Gleaner newspaper in Jamaica won gold for "Choked Development", a series which analysed the sustainability of development projects across the island. Tyrone Reid, also from The Gleaner, won gold for his series "Health Sector Under the Microscope".

A third gold award was presented to Hazra Medica of the Antigua Sun for her series "The Other Antiguan", and Guyana-born Judy Fitzpatrick of St Maarten's Daily Herald received silver for her article "Simpson Bay Lagoon."

Harold Robinson, UNFPA Representative in the Office of the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean explained that the UNFPA's 2007 State of the World Population report "Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth" inspired the theme of this year's competition. He pointed to both the challenges and possibilities of urban growth.

Dr. Ralph Hakkert, who delivered the evening's feature address, noted the need for policy-makers to quickly come to terms with the fact that most urban growth will result from births among the city poor rather than migration. He stressed however that evicting squatters or denying them services is not the solution. He said policy makers can respond to high urban growth rates through advances in social development such as promoting gender equity and equality, making education universally available and meeting reproductive health needs to help women to avoid unwanted fertility and reduce natural increase - the main factor in the growth of urban populations.

Dr. Hakkert is currently Chief Technical Adviser of a regional project to offer Latin America and the Caribbean support in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).