



Sir Howard Cooke accepts his FCGI diploma of fellowship in recognition of his illustrious career as an educator from Chris Humphries, CBE, director general of City and Guilds London Institute at a presentation ceremony at the British High Commission on Monday. PETA-GAYE CLACHAR PHOTO

Sir Howard Cooke honoured with City and Guilds Fellowship

By Nicola Cunningham

The London based 126-year-old educational Institute of City and Guilds last Monday honoured Governor General Sir Howard Cooke with a fellowship (FCGI) in recognition of his illustrious career as an educator. Sir Howard is an alumnus as well as a former teacher of courses leading to the City and Guilds qualifications. The presentation took place on the lawns of the British High Commission, Trafalgar Road.

Awarded to specially selected individuals each year, City and Guilds Fellowship is given to persons whose outstanding professional and personal achievements reflect the institute's vision of working to build a world in which all people can access the skills needed for economic and personal well being.

Sir Howard's nomination was proposed by Richard McKenzie and supported by vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Professor Rex Nettleford and Dr. Claude Packer, principal of Mico Teachers' College.

According to Chris Humphries, director general of the City and Guilds of London Institute, it is clearly evident that Sir Howard is most deserving of the award as his contribution to the education of Jamaicans is unquestionable.

"It was clear to me when I met Sir Howard that he is a passionate humanist and a patriot of the highest order. Sir Howard, City and Guilds is truly appreciative of your extraordinary career that has shaped the framework of education in Jamaica and you indeed honour us with your acceptance. We are honoured to present this diploma in recognition of not only an exemplary career, but exemplary life of service."

Sharing a passion

Moved by the gesture, Sir Howard addressed Mr. Humphries as his "brother" with whom he shares a passion for promoting education and training as a means of motivating individuals and communities to

achieve their goals.

"Let me say from the outset that when some things were being said about me, my wife turned to me and said, 'Is you that?' She is right in saying this as whatever I have achieved, she is the main source of that inspiration and she is the real heart and brain of this operation.

"I thank you all for being here as at this stage in my life, your presence assures me that I still have many friends. Every person here will have experiences that they will recall for the rest of their lives and this is one such occasion for me.

"When I received the letter stating that I was to be honoured, I was greatly surprised. When one is recognised by one's own country there is tremendous pride and joy, however when it is from another nation, it takes on a whole different dimension as when I am recognised, Jamaica is recognised," the Governor General said.

Established in 1878 to encourage education and training in and for the workplace, City and Guilds is today the United Kingdom's leading awarding body, offering over 500 different qualification spanning 22 sectors. City and Guilds issues over 1.3 million certificates annually, providing progression from entry level to the equivalent of a post-graduate degree.

There are more than 8,500 approved City and Guilds centres worldwide providing training in fields such as agriculture, information technology, office-based qualifications and a comprehensive set of management programmes through the Institute of Leadership and management (ILM).

In Jamaica, City and Guilds is an ISO 9001 organisation that has enlisted the assistance of the Overseas Examination Office to manage quality in Jamaica. Some of their approved centres locally are Bridgeport High School, Brown's Town Community College, Frome Technical High School, Greater Portmore High School, Denham Town High School, Holy Childhood Institute, Institute of Cosmetology and Aesthetics, Jamaica German Automotive School and Kingston College.