

Master Teacher To Pitch Jamaican Model At Gifted Confab



On August 8, Dr Vivienne Deokoro, founder and visionary of the 22-year-old Deokoro Magnet Schools for the Gifted and Talented, will leave Jamaica for the 20th Biennial World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) in Kentucky, United States. She joins a diversity of other national delegates, colleagues, researchers, and renowned gifted education specialists from around the world.

Deokoro - a master teacher, musicologist, conductor, instrumentalist, author, gifted education consultant, researcher, curriculum expert - is a highly gifted and talented individual. She was denied entry to college at age 14 after completing her high school education, because she was considered too young, she recalls.

Based on her reputation and more than 20 years of success in the field of gifted education, Deokoro has been selected by the World Council to present a paper at the imminent conference on 'Educating the Gifted in the Caribbean', and 'The Deokoro Model'. Having recently been appointed national delegate and regional representative by the council, Deokoro has been charged with the responsibility of promoting the work of the World Council and WCGTC delegate elections, among other duties.

The Deokoro Magnet Schools for the Gifted and Talented is currently the sole school of its kind in the region, catering specifically for the diverse needs of the gifted. In a recent interview, Deokoro said that she would be delighted to explore the potential for establishing other schools and programmes to cater to the many gifted and talented children needing a specialised curriculum and services that safeguard against their intellectual stagnation and frustration.

Currently based in Kingston, the Deokoro Magnet Schools had its genesis in the early 1990s in Montego Bay, where Deokoro first set about championing the cause of challenged, misunderstood, and exceptionally gifted children who were not realising their full potential in mainstream schools.

With a natural gift for motivating children to learn and perform at their best, in 2010, Deokoro also rose to the challenge of creating a technical high school division to assist public school students who did not pass the GNAT examinations. Some of these students were being

transferred to private schools to assist the Ministry of Education in finding solutions to support educational development.

Deokoro and her small Jamaican delegation are currently finalising plans to make a distinct Caribbean impression on the world leaders in gifted education. Speaking about her trip, Deokoro said, "Although this extraordinary opportunity falls outside the reach of the school's budget, I certainly could not forego this opportunity to boldly vie for Jamaica to host the 2017 World Conference, which would see thousands in academia from around the world converging on our shores."