What makes good practice?

A good practice submission must be a programme, policy, project or strategy that has made a positive difference to primary school children, secondary school students, their teachers, or the education system of a country in respect of one or more of the eight Action Areas.

History of the awards

The Commonwealth Education Good Practice Award was launched in 2005 to celebrate and promote good practice in education throughout the Commonwealth. The awards were introduced in 2006 at the 16th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in South Africa, where ministers endorsed the programme in recognition of positive and promising practices in education throughout the Commonwealth.

The third round of the awards, presented at the 18th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Mauritius in August 2012, was won by Rwanda, which was one of 123 applications from 27 countries from around the Commonwealth.
Criteria for the Commonwealth Good Practice Awards

- **Relevance**: The good practice demonstrates a socio-culturally sensitive and economically appropriate response to the context and challenge of education delivery in a specific country;
- **Measurable impact and effect**: The value of the good practice is measured through qualitative and quantitative indicators to demonstrate impact and effect;
- **Sustainability**: The good practice is or can be projected to have positive impact and effect whether intermittently at intervals, or on a consistent long-term basis;
- **Efficiency and effectiveness**: The good practice demonstrates the efficient and effective use of resources in its implementation;
- **Community participation and contribution**: The success of the good practice is enhanced or enriched through community and civil society participation, ownership or contribution;
- **Replication**: Given similar conditions and circumstances, the good practice has the potential to be replicated in other Commonwealth countries.

Submission guidelines

Submissions must be made by completing all sections of the application form, available on [www.thecommonwealth.org/education](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/education)

- Good Practice Awards submissions from individuals will not be accepted. Submissions must be sent by email and/or post and addressed to:

  The Co-ordinator
  Commonwealth Education Good Practice Awards
  Education Section
  Commonwealth Secretariat Marlborough House, Pall Mall
  London SW1Y SHX
  United Kingdom

  Email: educationawards@commonwealth.int

  - Submissions deadline: 16 January 2015
  - Submissions received after this date will **not** be considered.
  - Commonwealth Small States are particularly encouraged to submit.

All photographs courtesy of Rwanda Education Board, Ministry of Education, Republic of Rwanda
Guidance notes for completing the application form

The numbers below correspond to the questions on the application form.

1. The country must be a member of the Commonwealth.

13. ‘The Beneficiary’ refers to individuals who have directly benefited from the Good Practice.

14. ‘People participating’ means the individuals who have been involved in running and delivering the Good Practice.

15. The Good Practice must fit into at least one of the Award’s Action Areas. Please list those applicable, up to a maximum of four. The Action Areas are:
   - achieving universal primary education;
   - eliminating gender disparities in education;
   - improving quality in education;
   - mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS on education systems;
   - supporting education in difficult circumstances;
   - using distance learning to overcome barriers;
   - using education to promote sustainable development eg., climate change; and
   - promoting civil paths to peace eg., respect and understanding.

16. The Executive Summary should be a brief description of the Good Practice. Please include simple statements about its aims and objectives, and tell us what actually happens in the Good Practice.

17. The Description could cover, but not be limited to:
   - the context of the Good Practice;
   - how the Good Practice was designed;
   - who was involved in designing it;
   - who was involved in implementing it;
   - a detailed description of the Good Practice itself;
   - who benefits from it, and how they benefit;
   - the cost of the Good Practice, and where the money came from.
   Please be clear about the Good Practice, remembering that others will not know the details of your organisation, how the education system works in your country, or the details about its culture.

18. The following criteria should be adhered to carefully in submissions as they provide the basis for selection. You need not answer every question in each criterion. However, try to give as much evidence as you can to support your application.

   Relevance: The Good Practice should demonstrate a socio-culturally sensitive and economically appropriate response to the context and challenge of education delivery in a specific country.
   - How well does the Good Practice fit into its cultural context?
   - What specific education issue does the Good Practice address?

   Measurable Impact and Effect: The Good Practice should have an impact on the intended group, which could be demonstrated and measured.
   - What positive impact has the Good Practice made to the lives of people? How was this measured? Who measured it?
   - What impact has the Good Practice had on the organisation?
   - How many persons/students/teachers/schools/ etc. has the Good Practice positively impacted?
   - What do beneficiaries of the Good Practice say about it?

   Sustainability: The Good Practice should be projected to have continued positive impact in the long-term.
   - Is the Good Practice expected to continue in the future and for how long?
   - Who is responsible for ensuring it continues in the future?
   - How do you envisage it changing and growing in the future?
   - Where will the funds come from? What will happen if the original organisers and funders leave?

   Efficiency and Effectiveness: The Good Practice should demonstrate cost-savings and/or the efficient and effective use of resources in its implementation.
   - Has the Good Practice saved on costs? Does it have built-in efficiencies?
   - How creatively and effectively have resources been used, so as to minimise cost and optimise results? Can the Good Practice be repeated at a lower cost?
   - How has its environmental impact been reduced to the minimum?

   Community Participation and Contribution: The Good Practice should be enhanced or enriched through community and civil society participation, ownership or contribution.
   - Have there been any contribution and/or participation by the community where the Good Practice is located?
   - If yes, how has the community been engaged?
   - If no, how could the Good Practice improve engagement with the community?
   - Are there plans to engage the community in the future?
   - Are stakeholders involved in making specific contributions to the Good Practice?

   Replication: Given similar conditions and circumstances, the Good Practice has the potential to be replicated in the education systems of other Commonwealth countries.
   - Would it be easy to do the Good Practice in another country or cultural context? What problems might there be?
   - Has any aspect of the Good Practice been copied, replicated or identified for replication by another organisation, ministry or country?
   - If not, what issues/elements of the Good Practice could be easily replicated in other countries?