

From thebahamasweekly.com -

INTERNATIONAL

The Pioneers of Prosperity Award to Select Winner from the Bahamas

By Abby Noble
Jul 20, 2009 - 5:36:29 PM



Country-level winners have been selected for the 2009 *Pioneers of Prosperity* Caribbean Awards Competition. A ceremony to honor their achievement will be held on Thursday, July 23rd 2009, followed by a cocktail reception.

Ten winners and five honorable mentions were selected from across the Caribbean. These firms emerged from a pool of 580 small to medium sized firms (SMEs) that applied to the program. Winners at the country level will receive a grant from the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) of US \$40,000 to invest in training and technical infrastructure for their company and are automatically entered into the regional competition for a chance to win an additional US \$60,000 and the prestigious title of *Pioneer of Prosperity* Caribbean. Honorable mentions will receive a similar grant of US \$10,000. Winning firms will also be connected to a global network of technical expertise, potential investors, and other cutting-edge entrepreneurs.

All ten winners will travel to Jamaica to compete for three regional prizes. **The Hon. Orette Bruce Golding, M.P. Prime Minister of Jamaica, will host the final awards ceremony on September 11, 2009.**

The *Pioneers of Prosperity* Awards Program is a global program made-up of regional competitions spanning the Caribbean, Africa and Central America. Seven countries participated in the inaugural Caribbean competition: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago.

The Program seeks to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs in emerging economies by identifying, rewarding, and promoting outstanding small to medium size businesses who will serve as role models to their peers. The program is sponsored by the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank, the John Templeton Foundation, and the Social Equity Venture Fund (S.E.VEN Fund).

The *Pioneers of Prosperity* program was conceived and initiated by Michael Fairbanks, a recognized thought leader in the area of enterprise solutions to poverty.

For additional information on the *Pioneers of Prosperity* Awards Program, visit www.pioneersofprosperity.org .

© Copyright 2009 by thebahamasweekly.com -