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Pioneers of Prosperity to reward outstanding companies

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Pioneers of Prosperity is a global awards programme that seeks to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs in emerging economies by identifying, rewarding, and promoting truly outstanding businesses who can serve as role models to their peers. It was launched on February 9 in Tobago and February 10 in Trinidad with events hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

The programme is sponsored by the Multi-lateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank, the John Templeton Foundation, and the Social Equity Venture Fund. In addition to providing grants of up to \$100,000, USD invests in technical infrastructure and training for the winning companies. Winners of the Pioneers of Prosperity Award will be also be connected to networks of technical expertise, potential investors, and other cutting-edge entrepreneurs on the local, regional, and global level.

The American Chamber of Commerce, Business Development Company, ICT Society, Next Corporation, South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association and the University of Trinidad and Tobago have come out in show of support for the Pioneers of Prosperity programme. "We are pleased with the number of applications we have received from business owners throughout the Caribbean but remain convinced that many more winners are out there," said Julie Kennedy, Director of Pioneers of Prosperity Caribbean.

The official deadline for applications to the Pioneers of Prosperity Caribbean Awards Programme has been extended to March 23. Eligible business owners are encouraged to visit the Pioneers of Prosperity Web site and apply immediately. Applications for the Pioneers of Prosperity Award must be submitted online and can be found at <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/Application/Application.html> ^[1].

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