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Initiative to spur entre



Nick Buckley

An initiative intended to spur entrepreneurship in several Caribbean countries has been launched in Barbados.

It's Pioneers of Prosperity, a global awards programme that seeks to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs.

The force behind it is the U.S.-based O.T.F group, which specialises in building competitiveness in emerging and transitional economies.

Speaking during the launch at the Hilton hotel, OTF associate Nick Buckley talked about the four main characteristics prospective awardees must possess.

"Do we want to see high and rising values being given to each of these areas? We want to see the customers getting a great, innovative niche product that satisfies their needs and keeps them coming back for more. We want to see the owners getting a return on their investment commensurate with the risk that they're taking by investing in this business. We want to see workers that have access to training, protections in the company, maybe access to other forms of after work programmes and other things, and of course high and rising salaries. We want to see the company is concerned with the future of its company, of the community of its environment.

Companies interested in applying for the award must be based in one of the seven Caribbean territories in which it has been launched, earn between one hundred thousand and five million U.S dollars in revenue and be a profit driven.

The deadline for entry is March 9th, 2009 and after an evaluation process, a winner will be chosen.

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