



INSIDE TVET

TVET - Key To A WorldClass Workforce

Employers Awards set for Feb. 29

THE Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Employers Recognition Awards conclude on Wednesday, February 29, with an awards ceremony at the Accra Beach Hotel and Spa. That is when the ten finalists, along with other attendees, will learn who amongst them are winners in the inaugural national awards programme organized by the TVET Council.

The TVET Employers Recognition Awards is intended to acknowledge and celebrate employers that invest in workforce training with an emphasis on the training and development of workers who fall into the 19-35 age range.

The purpose of the awards is to increase the amount and quality of technical and vocational education and training currently provided by employers in Barbados by rewarding their efforts and achievements.

The Awards are designed to encourage the provision of job attachments and other workforce training opportunities for employees in the 19-35 age range with small and medium-sized employers by recognising their investment in training and development.

They serve to reward employers that enable staff development through investing in TVET, promote and communicate the benefits of TVET as a driver for staff development and organizational development and encourage buy-in from both public and private sector employers.

The ten finalists in the following categories are:-

- Services Sector (Small)**
 - Explorer Management Inc.
 - The Travel House Inc.



MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY Dr Esther Byer-Suckoo speaking at the launch of the TVET Employers Recognition Awards in August last year. (GP)

- Services Sector (Medium)**
 - Butterfly Beach Resort
 - Caves of Barbados Ltd
 - Island Villas
- Productive Sector (Small)**
 - Asphalt Processors Inc.
 - Atlantis Seafood Inc.
- Productive Sector (Medium)**
 - Nature Care
 - Simmons Electrical
- Special Award for Investment in Youth Development (Job Attachments)**
 - Asphalt Processors Inc.
 - Atlantis Seafood Inc.
 - Bistro Monet
 - Simmons Electrical

Judging took place in two phases and included the submission of application forms along with evidence to support the applications, which were reviewed by a panel of judges, and an interview phase in which successful participants from the first round gave the judging panel the opportunity to further explore the training

philosophy and culture of the organization and its impact on organizational business strategy.

During the feature address delivered at the August 19, 2011 launch of the awards, Minister of Labour and Social Security Dr Esther Byer-Suckoo urged employers to make TVET "truly synonymous with workforce training".

Referring to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) definition of TVET, she said: "Indeed, UNESCO describes TVET as being concerned with 'the acquisition of knowledge and skills for the world of work'.

It further explains: 'TVET helps learners acquire skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to develop professional careers and enter the world of work as well as active citizenship and lifelong learning'."

The minister stressed: "I therefore strongly urge employers to join the global, regional and indeed national efforts to redefine workforce training, thereby making it more relevant and effective."



THE FIRST ROUND OF JUDGING for the TVET Employers Recognition Awards took place last December. At left is judge Celeste Foster, president of the Small Business Association, and project leader Andrea Harding-Waithe. Inset is judge Rosalind Jackson, managing director of Caribbean Catalyst Inc. Missing is Tony Seale, HR advisor, Barbados Light & Power Co. Ltd. (GPs)



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