

T&T CHAMBER ANNOUNCES THREE 2018 CHAMPIONS OF BUSINESS AWARDEES

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce will host the annual Champions of Business Awards Ceremony on November 1, 2018 at the National Academy for Performing Arts in Port of Spain.

Now in its 14th year, the awards ceremony honours some of Trinidad and Tobago's finest business minds – both accomplished and emerging. In an evening of warmth and accolades, businesspeople who have distinguished themselves in service to their companies and to their country, are recognized by their peers for excellence in business performance and philanthropic practices.

On board again this year, the First Citizens Group is the category sponsor for the Internationally Known...T&T Owned Company of the Year award. This year a new Business Technology award is being added, with bmobile joining as the category sponsor. EY will continue its partnership as the category sponsor for the Entrepreneur of the Year (Emerging, Start Up and SME) Awards while as customary, two accomplished business luminaries will be inducted into the T&T Chamber's prestigious Business Hall of Fame.

The T&T Chamber is pleased to announce the following recipients of Champions of Business awards for 2018: -

Business Hall of Fame Inductees:

- **Mr. Sydney Phillips (posthumous):**
Mr. Phillips left an indelible legacy on the life insurance industry in Trinidad and Tobago - as the first President of Guardian Life of the Caribbean Limited and its Chief Executive Officer through its predecessor - spanning some 16 years. He was a mentor and inspiration to many he encountered, and even when he retired in March 1994, he continued to serve as a director of both Guardian Life (until May 5, 2005) and Guardian Holdings Limited (until April 19, 2001). Throughout, he always made himself available for any service that he could provide to the Group.
- **Mr. Derek Chin:**
Mr. Chin is a stellar entrepreneur and the CEO of the Dachin Group of companies which encompasses multiple Cineplex locations, commercial developments, three premier restaurant franchises, security services, gaming and digital media companies. Mr. Chin's companies have supported, and continue to support many charitable and corporate social responsibility activities. These include support for United Way, an annual Christmas party for children and the Secondary Schools Film Competition, among many others.

Internationally Known...T&T Owned Company of the Year Winner:

- SM Jaleel and Company Limited:

Since its establishment in 1924 by Sheik Mohammed Jaleel, the company has remained a family enterprise, 100 per cent locally owned. SMJ has steadily moved to conquer new export markets and today, it is one of the global players in the beverage industry. Through a culture of innovation and creative leadership, SMJ has steadily grown its operations and currently employs over 1300 persons in 10 countries. Moreover, it is a generous supporter of corporate social responsibility and charitable initiatives, inter alia, beach clean-ups, private scholarships to UWI and UTT, partnership for two years with Vitas House Hospice and relief efforts to Dominica in the wake of Hurricane Maria in 2017.

For the **Entrepreneur of the Year** and **Business Technology Awards**, a shortlist of finalists for each category will be released later this month, with the winners being announced live on the evening of the Awards.

This year we welcome Mr. Peter van der Gracht, Serial Technology Entrepreneur, as our feature speaker. Mr. van der Gracht is a successful technology start-up veteran with over twenty-five years of experience leading companies through multiple financings, operational build-outs, acquisitions, mergers and buy-outs. He has broad experience in wireless, software, hardware, telecom, automotive, resource and broadband industries. Throughout his career, he identified, funded, designed and launched dozens of innovative technology products, and was responsible for all aspects the corporate operations. Mr. van de Gracht's attendance was made possible through the kind courtesy of the High Commission of Canada to Trinidad and Tobago.

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce congratulates all awardees and finalists and looks forward to bestowing fitting honour upon them come Thursday, November 1, 2018. To register for this event, you may contact Sharmin Boodoo at 637-6966 ext 1252 or email sboodoo@chamber.org.tt

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FROM THE MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS UNIT