



**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SMALL AND MICRO
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

International Waterfront Centre, Tower C, Level 5 & 6
#1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Telephone: (868) 625 – 8478 Fax: (868) 627-9401
Website: www.molsmed.gov.tt

PRESS RELEASE

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LABOUR MINISTRY SPONSORS SME MASTER'S PROGRAMME

In recognition of its role in engendering the development of the Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) sector, the **Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development** has pledged sponsorship to the **Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business** in support of its Master of Small and Medium Enterprise Management programme.

The revelation was made earlier today by the **Honourable Errol McLeod, Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development**, at a cheque distribution ceremony held at the Ministry's Head Office on Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.

According to **Minister McLeod**, the twenty (20) - month online Master's Programme, is “aimed at improving the quality of MSE development in Trinidad and Tobago” and will aid in the development of “entrepreneurship management expertise required for the implementation of effective entrepreneurship development programmes” which he credited as the agents through which our economy can be diversified through “innovation and creativity”.

Among these programmes identified were the **National Integrated Business Incubator System (IBIS)** and the **Fairshare Programme**, both of which provide access for MSE entrepreneurs to acquire business development support, infrastructure, operational and financial assistance as well as set-aside government procurement opportunities.

Another beneficiary at the Ministry's cheque distribution ceremony was the **American Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago (AmCham T&T)**, whose unwavering commitment to workplace health and safety was lauded by the Minister.

Minister McLeod said: “Through its annual Health, Safety, Security and Environment Awards, **AmCham T&T** encourages, recognizes and rewards organizations for their efforts in being innovative while promoting safer work environments. The Ministry applauds AMCHAM's efforts and is pleased to partner with **AmCham T&T** for its HSSE Awards 2014.”

Accepting the cheque on behalf of **AmCham T&T** was its President, Mr. Hugh Howard, who in expressing his “deep appreciation” to the Minister, stated that there is a need to change the paradigm from that of job seeker to those who create wealth.

“Trinidad and Tobago should be the leader in **CARICOM**. We have all the attributes, assets and capabilities to do so and if we, in any way, fail to discharge that leadership role then we too will suffer as a result,” Howard added.

**Communications Unit,
Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development
Tel: 625-8478 (Ext. 1203) / 351-5723 / 351-5724; Fax: 624-9126
E-mail: ruizk2@gov.tt / zephyrineb@gov.tt**



Photo Caption:

Minister Errol McLeod gestures warmly as he presents the President of AmCham T&T, Mr. Hugh Howard, with a sponsorship cheque at the Ministry's Head Office on Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.