

**Speech of Alfred Marie-Jeanne
President of the Collectivity of Martinique
Award Ceremony of OECS 30 Under 30
Monday 31 of July 2017**

Dear Director-General of the OECS Commission,

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Dr Didacus Jules,

Mr Marcellus Albertin and Mrs Yoshabel Durand, from the OECS Social and Youth Development Unit

Social of the OECS,

Dear Colleagues, Ministers, Representatives of the States of our

Organization,

My commitment and my determination always renewed, in order to

Make our Caribbean Continent, more fraternal, more supportive and more enterprising, my convictions, could not fail.

We welcome the representative of the Central Bank of the OECS,

We welcome the representatives of the National Youth Councils of the OECS

Member States

We welcome Mr. Richard BRANSON for sponsoring this operation,

Let us welcome all our guests here and by videoconference in the other OECS territories,

Without forgetting, the interpreters who make our

discussion understandable.

The success of this event must go through the highlighting of our youth.

Congratulations and applause to our Caribbean Youth that undertakes successful entrepreneur initiatives.

To all the winners of the contest, from Antigua & Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint-Lucia St. Vincent & the Grenadines and of course

Martinique, I address my sincere congratulations!

You restore pride and example to follow throughout Martinique and the entire Caribbean.

Your companies and projects managed to attract the jury's attention of the first edition of the "30 under 30" contest.

The OECS ". You are the flag bearers of this daring youth.

It is a well-deserved honor that we give you.

I would like to welcome the work of the OECS Commission towards youth and the development of entrepreneurship. This competition is the concrete result of the "OECS Youth Strategy" which aims at their empowerment on the Caribbean level.

This is an opportunity for me to welcome another initiative aimed at promoting the scientific potential of the Caribbean, The Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering or SPISE. This

program launched by the Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF), put the emphasis on personal, academic and intellectual development.

For the first time last year, a young high school student from Martinique, Loïc Michel, was able to enroll this intensive program for 4 weeks.

This year, another young person is to benefit from the program.

As you can see, our Caribbean has a lot to offer, we just have to be opened to our region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The prize awarded to the winners today consists of supporting the development of their potential. In a word : "Fostering entrepreneurship state of mind among youth".

Thomas Sankara, a leading alterglobalist from Burkina Faso, developed the idea that I share which is that to receive "the help that helps us to dispense us from help ".

This is the message that I humbly came to deliver to you, winners, and all of you.

Before concluding, allow me to address to the two young people present at my side:

Sébastien Célestine and Jacques Sanquer, you are the Martinican winners of the first edition of this contest.

I hope that many other Martinicans will follow your way to spread and carry the values of Martinique and the Caribbean higher.

Again, congratulations; and it is with great honor that

I will give you your certificates in a few moments.

Finally, to my Caribbean Brothers, I would like to renew my devotion to you and my willingness to participate in the concert of the Nations of our Caribbean and logically, in the concert of the Nations of the World.

Thank you for your attention.

Mési an pil, Mési an chay.

Alfred Marie-Jeanne
President of the Collectivity of Martinique