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American hotelier named Tahiti's "entrepreneur of the year"

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American Richard H. Bailey has been named "entrepreneur of the year" as the chairman and CEO of Tahiti Beachcomber SA, a company that owns four InterContinental hotels in French Polynesia. As the first businessperson in French Polynesia to receive such an honor, Bailey now qualifies for participation in France's Entrepreneur Grand Prix.

Bailey also accepted the Tahiti Entrepreneur Award for the "ecodynamic company", an honor stemming his personal commitment to environmental protection as well as his support for developing ecotourism at the InterContinental Hotels on Tahiti, Moorea and Bora Bora.

Bailey was the big winner Friday night during the first Tahiti Entrepreneur Awards ceremonies held at the Hotel Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti. He was one of eight local business leaders to receive recognition on the final day of the 1st Annual Tahiti Entrepreneur Week organized by the Temaru government's Tahiti Invest to promote the development of international investments in French Polynesia.



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The eight other winners announced Friday night were:

--Teiva Godefroy, CEO of Somalu, an aluminum materials company, won the "innovation prize". This award, sponsored by the French Polynesia Office des Postes et Télécommunications, was aimed at recognizing accomplishments in the technical, social, marketing or environmental areas.

--Franck Falletta, CEO of Tahiti Nui Travel, the biggest and one of the oldest travel agencies in Tahiti, won the prize of "international company". This award, sponsored by Air Tahiti Nui, was open to anyone from a company that has existed for a minimum of three years, had a turnover of more than 500 million French Pacific francs (US\$5.5 million/€4.19 million) for the latest fiscal year, had a 15% turnover grown for the last three fiscal years and had a profitability of more than 4% for the latest fiscal year.

--Alain Guitard, CEO of Moana Roa, a company involved in renewable energies, environmental projects, electric vehicles and Internet online selling of new technology, won the "company of the future" prize. This award, sponsored by the French Polynesia Ministry of Small and Medium Size Companies, Industry, was open to a company "with a strong potential that has already shown innovation in its market. An eligible company had to be in business for a maximum of eight years, had a turnover of at least 50 million French Pacific francs (US\$545,852/€419,000) in the latest fiscal year or the same amount in capital since the company's creation.

--Christian Perez, CEO of the Chantier Naval du Pacific Sud (South Pacific Shipyard), won the "involvement in society" prize. This award, sponsored by Tahiti Invest, the Temaru government's office for promoting overseas investments in French Polynesia, was aimed a recognizing a person for his/her actions on behalf of developing a local business.

--Jean-François Virmaux, CEO of Pacific Aquaculture Services, won the exporter prize. This award, sponsored by Perles de Tahiti, was aimed a recognizing an exporting company with strong added value for "made in Tahiti" products or the opening of new outlets.

--Olivier Touboul, manager of the Laboratories de cosmétologie du Pacifique (South Pacific Cosmetics Company), won the "young entrepreneur" prize. This award, sponsored by Tikiphone,

was aimed at recognizing a young businessperson less than 35 years of age who has developed an ambitious product for the long-term economic development of French Polynesia.

--Belinda Lucas, CEO of Vainoni, a company that produces noni juice and noni by-products, won the "business vahine" prize. This award, sponsored by the French Polynesia Ministry of Family Affairs, Infant and the Role of Women, was aimed at recognizing a business woman for her initiative, commitment or success who would serve as a model for French Polynesia.

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