

Tewarie: Risk-taking a must for progress

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■ Vishanna Phagoo

vishanna.phagoo@trinidadexpress.com

AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago (Amcham T&T) chief executive officer Nirad Tewarie has urged businesses to see opportunity where others see risks.

He was speaking on Tuesday at the chamber's 15th Annual National Excellence in Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Awards at the Hyatt Regency (Trinidad), Port of Spain.

Delivering the feature address, Tewarie said, 'We are living in an age where uncertainty has become a constant. Whether it's economic instability, the effects of climate change, or technological disruption, risk is ever-present. But the real question is not how we avoid it, but how we respond to it.'

He emphasised that progress often arises from those who choose to see possibility rather than danger.

'Every major breakthrough in business, in safety, and even in human progress, has come from those who chose to see possibility where others saw danger,' he said.

He added that 'risk and opportunity are two sides of the same coin. The leaders who thrive are those who have the courage to flip it'.

Tewarie also highlighted the critical role of consistency in leadership, saying, 'When uncertainty grows, people look to their leaders for direction, and what gives them confidence isn't bravado or perfection – it's consistency. Consistency of values. Consistency of principles. Consistency in doing what's right, even when it's hard.'

He described the awardees as examples of 'leadership that transforms uncertainty into progress,' adding that their achievements demonstrate 'what resilience really looks like – not the absence of risk, but the ability to rise, learn, and grow because of it'.

Tewarie also described the event as more than just an awards ceremony, calling it a 'movement of people and organisations committed to a shared belief that safety, health, and care for the environment are not just workplace priorities; they are fundamental human values'.

Urging all participants to extend HSE values beyond their workplaces, he said: 'As we celebrate the best in HSE, I invite you to think of your work not only as building safer companies but as helping to build a safer, more compassionate world. That is the spirit we honour tonight. That is the leadership we continue to champion.'