

TEMPLETON FREEDOM AWARDS

To boost the standard of living and benefits of freedom worldwide, the Foundation supports research and programs that create and promote the free enterprise system, including enterprise-based solutions to poverty. For self-sustaining growth, the Foundation funds and seeks partners to create goods, products or services that will support themselves in the marketplace, give developers and providers increasing economic benefits, and link to the global economy.

“Liberty depends on a practical understanding of several key ideas, which are always falling into neglect,” says Templeton Prize laureate Michael Novak. To breathe life into these ideas, the Foundation is partnering with the Atlas Economic Research Foundation, offering the Templeton Freedom Awards—a four-year pledge of \$2 million, begun in the fall of 2003—in ethics, poverty, entrepreneurship and student outreach.

The 21st century opened with unparalleled stories of greed and corporate corruption. Enron, Worldcom, Healthsouth became household words overnight as news of high-level fraud spread. The world was reminded of the role of ethics in free markets: intangible assets like goodwill and trust produce real-dollar value; companies that serve social needs can be profitable; honesty in reporting contributes to good business decisions. The Templeton Prize for Ethics and Values honors research institutes that study the relationship between free enterprise and enlightened systems of ethics and values.

To mitigate widespread poverty through free enterprise is economically and socially complex. Hernando de Soto has written extensively about barriers to a democratic, free enterprise system in a culture without legal property rights. “The big issue in most emerging markets,” notes de Soto, “is that the majority of people live, work and use land for which they have no legal title, even though their neighbors recognize it as theirs, and governments wouldn’t even dream of tampering with that land. Without such a title, however, there is no way to build a system of securitization that gives them access to credit, water, telephones or electricity.” To alleviate poverty on a small scale, the work of micro-credit agencies can play a role. Through loans for equipment like a simple sewing machine, these agencies transform workers into entrepreneurs, able to repay loans from a new small business.

The Templeton Freedom Prize for Free Market Solutions to Poverty will honor nonprofit institutes that research and promote solutions to poverty through free enterprise, sound legal institutions and entrepreneurship. The Templeton Freedom Prize for Social Entrepreneurship will honor nonprofit research institutes engaged in innovative and successful projects that strengthen society.

The Templeton Freedom Prize for Student Outreach honors nonprofit research institutes engaged in innovative projects to improve students’ understanding of the causes and consequences of individual freedom.

Templeton Freedom Awards 2004

In order to highlight some of the most innovative work being done by think tanks as players in the public policy process, Atlas Economic Research Foundation announces its first group of Templeton Freedom Awards to recognize the recent achievements and future promise of independent think tanks. The winners in the four categories of the Templeton Freedom Prizes for Excellence in Promoting Liberty are as follows:

The Templeton Prize for Social Entrepreneurship recognizes think tank efforts to mix hands-on projects to benefit the poor with work in the realm of ideas to build a stronger civil society.

Winner: Liberty Institute (India)

Runner-up: Fraser Institute (Canada)

The Templeton Prize for Student Outreach honors institutes engaged in innovative projects to improve students' understanding of the causes and consequences of individual freedom.

Winner: Centre for Civil Society (India)

Runner-up: National Center for Policy Analysis (Texas)

The Templeton Prize for Ethics and Values honors research institutes that study the relationship between enterprise and enlightened systems of ethics and values.

Winner: Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty (Michigan)

Runner-up: Instituto Cultural Ludwig von Mises (Mexico)

The Templeton Freedom Prize for Free Market Solutions to Poverty honors think tanks that research and promote solutions to poverty through free enterprise, sound legal institutions and entrepreneurship.

Winner: The Institute for Liberty & Democracy (Peru)

Runners-up: National Economic Research Institute (China), Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (Canada), and Law Review Project (South Africa)

Templeton Freedom Award Grants for Institute Excellence are given to outstanding think tanks that show great future promise, especially in difficult parts of the world that have seen few efforts to improve the understanding of the free society.

The 2004 Award Grant recipients are:

Association for Liberal Thinking (Turkey)

CEDICE (Venezuela)

Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies (Serbia)

Centre for Civil Society (India)

Civic Institute (Czech Republic)

Free Market Foundation (South Africa)

Fundación Libertad (Argentina)

Hayek Institute (Slovakia)

Institut Economique de Montreal (Canada)

Institute of Economic Affairs (Ghana)

Instituto Bruno Leoni (Italy)

Instituto Ecuatoriano de Economia Politica (Ecuador)

Libertad y Desarrollo (Chile)

Liberty Institute (India)

Lithuanian Free Market Institute (Lithuania)

Sir John Templeton Talks about Free Enterprise with Karl Giberson,

Editor of Science and Theology News and Science & Spirit

Question: You are one of the most successful entrepreneurs of the 20th century. What do we need to know about freedom that motivates you to fund free enterprise?

Sir John: I don't have a quick answer, but it would center around the concept of competition. In those areas where you don't need to compete, you don't become prosperous, you don't learn much.

It's where you need to compete that you learn by having to beat competition. I have a simple example from my own life. The best part of my education came to me unexpectedly after one year at Yale. My father told me that they were in the world's greatest depression in 1932 and he couldn't give me even one dollar to go back to Yale. From that point on, I had to earn every dollar for my education for the rest of my life. That was the best education. I had to go back and take three jobs and learn to be useful in three different jobs.

Another thing worth noting is that universities didn't give scholarships back in those old days because a child needed the money. They gave scholarships because students had high grades. So knowing that, I decided that I was going to get high grades. This competition meant that I had to work hard; I learned to be a hard worker, a very hard worker. I worked nights and days and weekends, which I still do. Trying to figure out how to pay my Yale tuition bills, I found that, per hour of time spent, I made more money successfully playing poker with rich boys than any other method!

Question: What do you say to the criticism of free enterprise that competition can leave people behind, disadvantages the poor, causes companies to go out of business, and so forth?

Sir John: Well, it's pretty well proven that in any group where they do not have competition, they make less progress. We often think of competition as being very tough. I know I did when my father told me that he couldn't give me another dollar. It turned out to be the greatest benefit, the greatest education I had.

Question: The history of civilization is, in some ways, the history of the struggle for freedoms. Do you have some heroes that have championed freedom?

Sir John: The great founder of the whole system of free enterprise was Adam Smith. Friederich Hayek of Austria was another important figure. There is also the Acton Institute, founded by Lord Acton who was a leading Roman Catholic 150 years ago.

Over twenty years ago, my friend Sir Antony Fisher, the founder of Atlas, helped me understand better the benefits accrued by all people worldwide from keeping government small and by continually opening wider the incentives for innovation, efficiency and discovery which result from more free competition.

Additional Funding Initiatives

Foundation for Teaching Economics

"Is Capitalism Good for the Poor?"

The Foundation for Teaching Economics (FTE), with funding from the Foundation, is undertaking to create a set of classroom ready materials and lesson plans for high school history, social studies, and economics teachers entitled "Is Capitalism Good for the Poor?" The new unit will provide professional development for teachers based on the voluntary National Standards for Economics Education. The lessons will contain the rationales for the concepts covered and how they fit into the curriculum.

The actual lesson plans will be based on the scholarly research of professors, eminent economists and scholars of ethics (including Nobel Laureate and free enterprise advocate Dr. Douglass C. North). The FTE will coordinate and sponsor one day, in service training sessions for 3,000 economics, history, and social studies teachers.

Junior Achievement International

"Web-Based Interactive Global Business Ethics Curriculum & Annual Global Business Competition"

The Foundation has awarded a challenge grant to Junior Achievement International (JAI) to develop and implement a global business ethics program and annual business ethics competition.

The program's primary goal is to help young people understand how to make conscientious, ethical business decisions and help them realize their responsibilities to communities and global society as a whole through character enrichment awareness.

Junior Achievement (www.ja.org) is the world's oldest, largest and fastest-growing nonprofit economic education organization. JA operates in thousands of communities across the U.S. through a network of 156 offices. Junior Achievement International (www.jaintl.org) is responsible for developing and serving JA programs in 112 countries. Over 5.5 million young people participate annually in JA programs around the world.

Foundation for Research in Economics & Education

“The Entrepreneur in Youth”

This book project will produce one of the most comprehensive assessments to date of high school student aspirations, knowledge, opinions and education about entrepreneurship. A key strength will be the book's longitudinal approach to analyses, contrasts, and interpretations, made possible by nine extensive national surveys of high school youth and other groups conducted by the authors and the Gallup Organization from 1994 to 2002 and including responses from about 15,000 participants.

A remarkable finding is that there is a great pool of untapped potential for entrepreneurship among the nation's youth: all high school youth, regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity are keenly interested in starting a business, demonstrating the broad “sociologically horizontal” trend towards the pursuit of entrepreneurship.

Institute for Human Studies

“Globalization Education Project”

By launching a Globalization Education Project with the help of the Foundation, the Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) aims to tap into college students' manifest concern about globalization and promote consideration of free enterprise principles and their relation to the alleviation of poverty.

With the emergence of an increasingly interconnected world economy has come an energetic discussion about the effects of "globalization" on the world's poor.

The Globalization Education Project at IHS seeks to open up debate on these issues among students by:

- Creating an interactive educational website.
- Conducting an educational summer seminar on the globalization debate.
- Initiating an essay contest to encourage students to think critically about globalization and poverty.
- By targeting concerned college students through these various channels, the Globalization Education Project seeks to engage them in dialogue on the crucial question of what makes for human flourishing.