



[Click here to print](#)

## **BELMOPAN BUSINESSMAN WINS PIONEERS OF PROSPERITY COUNTRY AWARD**

**Tue, July 28, 2009**

The Hummingbird Group Limited was named the Country-Level winner of the 2009 Pioneers of Prosperity Awards Competition in Belize. A ceremony to honor their achievement was held on Monday July 27 at the Radisson Fort George Hotel where the awards were presented by Abby Noble of the Pioneers of Prosperity team and Mike Brennan of the Social Equity Venture Foundation. Today Love News spoke with the founder of Hummingbird Group Limited, Robert Lopez.

### **Robert Lopez: Founder, Hummingbird Group Limited**

*We received an invitation via e-mail from Bel-Trade and that's how it all started. I'll be honest with you I kinda overlooked it, then we received a second e-mail saying the deadline had been put back a little and my assistant manager said 'boss, we can win this', and I said ok, lets go for it. And low on behold we did win and it's a great feeling to be rewarded for just honest good hard work, it's a good feeling. It was a big celebration, we were told to keep it a secret as far as the media and everything. We actually didn't let it out of the business but we were very excited, we could not believe it. Actually I didn't learn Chaa Creek was sort of the runner up until yesterday and I am truly humbled to have them as running mate because I hold Chaa Creek in high esteem and respect, and they are one of our good customers.*

Abby Noble, Country Director for Pioneers of Prosperity in Belize told us more about the program and what it seeks to inspire.

### **Abby Noble: Country Director for Pioneers of Prosperity**

*Pioneers of Prosperity is an awards program for businesses and for entrepreneurs and they receive cash grants of ten thousand to a hundred thousand dollars. The goal of Pioneers of Prosperity is to identify these entrepreneurs who were able to start businesses. Despite challenging or economic business circumstances they have created something that made an impact on the local community and the economy for their workers. We are investing in these companies with these cash grants. When I say investing I mean we are expecting an indirect return on investments. It's going to make an impact on the local communities, it's going to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs. We're not expecting some sort of financial returns, we're not expecting any paybacks. This is a grant and it's for the entrepreneurs to build up the capacity of their business and to invest in the professional development of their workers.*

Pioneers of Prosperity is sponsored by the Multilateral Investment Fund of Inter-American Development Band, The John Templeton Foundation, and the Social Equity Venture Fund. Mike Brennan is a member of the Social Equity Venture Fund.

## Mike Brennan: Social Equity Venture Fund

*Social Equity Venture Funds is a non profit organization started by entrepreneurs who focus on enterprise solutions to poverty. One of the founders of our company came up with the idea for Pioneers of Prosperity. The idea was simply how do we actually take some of the best role models in the world and shine a beam of light on them so that kids in villages and places across the world can in addition of looking up at sports role models or music role models, to actually look at entrepreneurs as a role model and as someone they would like to emulate.*

Winners at the country-level will receive a grant of forty thousand U-S dollars from the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank to invest in training and technical infrastructure for their company and are automatically entered into the regional competition for a chance to win an additional; sixty thousand dollars and the prestigious title of Pioneer of Prosperity Caribbean. The Lodge at Chaa Creek received an Honorable Mention.

[Close this window](#)