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## Pioneers get reward

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Published On: Monday, September 14, 2009

THE 2009 Pioneers of Prosperity Caribbean program has selected Bulkan Timber Works of Guyana for its grand prize.

Prudential Insurance Company of Haiti and Totally Male Ltd of Jamaica were also recognized.

From a highly competitive pool of 580 applications, ten Pioneers of Prosperity emerged representing some of the most innovative, dynamic businesses in the region. Each one of the finalists has already won a grant from the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) of US\$100,000 and will be connected to a global network of technical expertise, potential investors, and other cutting-edge entrepreneurs.

"These 10 entrepreneurs are role models for all of us. They built new distribution systems, found new and attractive markets, pay high and rising wages to their employees, and are outstanding corporate citizens of their respective nations. And they do this under challenging conditions-- never asking the government for favours, often beginning without specialised infrastructure or sufficient skills and abilities, but always with an eye to the future and their own self-determination," said Michael Fairbanks, co-founder and co-director of the Social Equity Venture Fund.

The Pioneers of Prosperity Awards Programme is a global programme made-up of regional competitions spanning the Caribbean, Africa and Central America.

Seven countries participated in the inaugural Caribbean competition: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. The programme will launch in Central America on September 14, 2009.

The Pioneers of Prosperity Programme seeks to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs in emerging economies by identifying, rewarding and promoting outstanding small to medium size businesses, who will serve as role models to their peers.

The Programme is sponsored by the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank, the John Templeton Foundation, and the Social Equity Venture Fund (S.E.VEN Fund), and was conceived and initiated by Michael Fairbanks, a recognised entrepreneur and author in the area of enterprise solutions to poverty.

Michael Fairbanks is a co-founder of S.E.VEN Fund. The programme has also built a network of over 35 local partners throughout the Caribbean. Jamaica Trade and Invest co-hosted the Final Awards Ceremony.

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- Yes, all people deserve respect
- No, they shouldn't be here in the first place

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