

00 gets 'entrepreneur of the year' award

A BOLTON optometrist has won 'Entrepreneur of the year' at the 2007 Fusion Awards – a ceremony that aims to celebrate the contribution of the Asian community in the north west.

Imran Hakim's company Mikah Eyewear/Hakim Ophthalmic Opticians, is a chain of part-owned opticians which are run by managed owners.

He sources frames from abroad through Mikah Eyewear and sells them to his branch owners at a cost advantage, increasing the company turnover.

The ceremony was held at the Reebok Stadium in Bolton on April 22.

Winning a 'Young Entrepreneur Award' is not the first time that 29-year-old Mr Hakim has had his business skills recognised—in 2006 he won a North West Young Entrepreneur of the Year



award.

Mr Hakim appeared as a contestant on BBC Two's Dragon's Den in February, winning a £140,000 investment from two of the 'Dragons' for his invention iTeDDy – a teddy bear with a personal music player built in to allow children to learn as they play.

When presented with the 'Entrepreneur of the year' award by Khalid Saifullah, chief executive of the Asian Business Federation Mr Hakim said: "This award is thanks to the hard work and efforts of our whole team."