

Galen Virtual Economic Summit

Recovery, Continuity, Transformation: Opportunities and Innovations to adjust to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Outlook for Belize

Tune in to Love TV 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

July 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th and 22nd

I. Introduction

The global disrupt caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has decreased demand and postponed purchasing decisions for many goods and services. The outlook is not completely negative as the need for goods and services, and international trade has not gone away. However, this disrupt is an opportunity for businesses to analyze and anticipate important changes. It is time to take a closer look at growth and value creation strategies; develop new strategies and perhaps quickly execute important strategic moves. Owners of businesses will have to look for and be open to new opportunities presented by the challenges of this coronavirus global crisis. They will have to find creative and innovative ways to reshape their businesses to survive and even thrive, despite the challenges of this COVID-19.

The Galen University virtual economic summit will bring together business owners, managers, farmers, agriculturalist and educators to discuss and provide insights and ideas for Recovery, Continuity, Transformation, Opportunities, and Innovation to adjust to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Summit Objectives

Contribute to the discussion on how impacted sectors of the Belizean economy can recover and be competitive. The specific objectives are to:

- i.** discuss challenges and identify areas for potential opportunities
- ii.** identify technology-driven sectoral innovations to accelerate recovery

III. The Summit Format

- a. Three Panelists
- b. One moderator per panel
- c. Opening statement (Eight to 10 mins. talk per panelist)
- d. What Innovation has your sector created to adapt and manage to COVID 19?
- e. What overall recommendation would you make for the recovery of your sector?
- f. Virtual presentation by SKYPE. Love TV producer will contact to workout tech. details

IV. Panel Discussions

Show One: 8:00 p.m. Wed, July 8, 2020

Economic Outlook

Business activity has crashed to record lows in Belize as the coronavirus pandemic fuels a global economic crisis, triggering steep declines in economic sectors. In Belize, tourism and agriculture have been hardest hit, while other industries are threatened. It is predicted that the local economic recovery will be on a slow ascending curve. Some of the challenges that could impede or slow the recovery are access to foreign exchange, high unemployment, access to capital, and restrictive government policies. On the other hand, the growth can be fueled by policies and programs that aim to develop an ecosystem to support business and social sectors.

Moderator: Henry N. Anderson, General Manager Belize Estate Company, Galen Trustee and Former Chair Galen Board of Trustees.

1. Michael H. M. Bowen, President/CEO B&B
2. Christopher Coye, Founding Partner, Attorney-at-Law & Notary Public, Courtenay Coye LLP
3. Kay Menzies, Past President BCCI and Member BCCI Executive Council

Show Two: 8:00 p.m. Thu, July 9, 2020

Tourism Industry: Recovery and Transformation

The Tourism Industry is perhaps the most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis calls for sectoral strategies that will drive recovery across-segments, throughout the industry. It is an opportunity to transform the industry by implementing strategies that will diversify the product and attract a greater share of global tourists and develop the domestic tourism market. Businesses in this sector will need to leverage technology to innovate in order to grow the market, develop operational efficiencies, and deliver a world-class tourism products.

Moderator: Nick Scavone, Managing Director Brilliance Belize

1. Ted Tejada, President Belize Hotel Assoc., General Manager Best Western
2. Melanie Paz, President Belize Tourism Industry Assoc., General Manager The Palms Ocean Front Suites
3. Ian Lizarraga, Managing Director Belize Collection of Resorts & Restaurants

Show Three: 8:00 p.m. Wed, July 15, 2020

Agriculture Sector Recovery

The COVID- 19 pandemic highlights the vulnerabilities of the Belizean agricultural sector. This crisis brought to the nation’s attention the many issues this sector has been plagued with over the years. It exposed the challenges of both large and small farmers. Many large farmers lack adequate infrastructure and policy support to facilitate large-scale production and export market access. Small scale farmers are often challenged by inadequate financial access, entrepreneurial skills, land ownership, and limited or no exposure to agro- technologies. The average age of a farmer in Belize is over 50 so there is a need to attract the younger generation to the agriculture sector. Additionally, the impact of climate change has caused shifts in weather patterns resulting in frequent droughts and floods that have destroyed crops and livestock.

Moderator: Hugh O’Brien, Galen Trustee, Farmer, Agriculture Consultant and Entrepreneur

1. Gilly Canton Jr. General Manager, Valley of Peace Farms Ltd.
2. Dr. Marcelino Avila, International Agriculture Consultant
3. Ms. Omaira Avila, Representative Caribbean Agriculture Research & Development Institute (CARDI)

Show Four: 8:00 p.m. Thu, July 16, 2020

Higher Education for Sustainable Development

The educational system, like Tourism, Agriculture, and other economic sectors, has experienced tremendous disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools at all levels of the system were abruptly closed, and teachers with little or no preparation found themselves delivering online and distance education via whatever means that were available to them. At the tertiary and post-secondary level, institutions were closed, semesters suspended with some institutions continuing their semester online utilizing WhatsApp, other social media and instructional media. Many students experienced challenges accessing the internet and instructional platforms.

It is expected that COVID-19 will be with us for the foreseeable future, and while the educational system is planning for an August 10 return to class, the new “normal” in educational delivery is still being defined. The disruption caused by COVID-19 affords the post-secondary and tertiary system an opportunity to innovate in its programming, modality, funding, and presents a challenge to the nation to have the sector support the national economic recovery efforts and national development.

Moderator: Dr. Angel Cal, Galen Quality Assurance Officer, Historian and former President University of Belize

1. Dr. Cynthia Eve Aird, Provost, Galen University
2. Armando Gomez, Principal Orange Walk ITVET
3. Dr. Karen Martinez, Dean, Ecumenical Junior College

Show Five: 8:00 P.M. Wed, July 22, 2020

Dr. Angel Cal, Henry N. Anderson, Nick Scavone, Hugh O’Brien