



# BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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# 4792 Coney Drive, 2nd Floor Withfield Tower, P.O. Box 291 , Belize City, Belize, Central America

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

## **THE BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY LAUNCHES SUPPORT FOR MICRO BUSINESSES – CLOSING THE GAP PROJECT**

### **-For Immediate Release-**

Belize City, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 – With support and funding from the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan ICDF), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) launched a project entitled “Support for Micro Businesses – Closing the Gap.” The primary objective of this project is to empower and build the capacity of 15 women-owned businesses, to enhance their resilience, and contribute to a more inclusive and thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem.

While MSMEs contribute substantially to Belize's economic fabric, women entrepreneurs, in particular, face unique challenges and barriers in establishing and sustaining their businesses. Despite the entrepreneurial spirit, women-owned businesses encounter obstacles that impede their growth and hinder the full realization of their potential. The existing business environment presents a series of challenges such as limited access to financial resources, inadequate support systems, and gender-specific barriers that act as deterrents to women seeking to champion entrepreneurship.

The "Support for Micro and Small Business Operations - Closing the Gap" project aims to address and rectify these challenges faced by women-owned businesses in Belize. By conducting a comprehensive situational analysis, this project seeks to identify the specific barriers hindering women entrepreneurs and subsequently, implement an action plan to address a prioritized gap. Throughout the project, participants will engage in research, workshop sessions, and other activities designed to enhance their business acumen and resilience.

The BCCI remains dedicated to promoting equal opportunities for female entrepreneurs and hopes to continue supporting these women-owned businesses through this initiative and beyond.

For more information, contact the Project Coordinator at [bccipc@belize.org](mailto:bccipc@belize.org).



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*Pictured (left to right) – Ronalee McKenzie – BCCI Project Coordinator, Kim Aikman – BCCI CEO, Her Excellency Amalia Mai – CEO – Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade, Her Excellency Lily Li-Wen Hsu – Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Katherine Meighan – BCCI President, Sheng-Tsair Pan - Chief of the Taiwan Technical Mission*



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