

NEWSLETTER

BELIZE ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS



"Making Belize Sustainable"

Retrospecting: 1st Governance Summit 2019



Some of the 113 participants at 2019's First Governance Summit at the Raddison

2019 Summit Partners - RTI; US Embassy; and BAP

As we prepare for the second governance summit next month, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced organizers to plan for a virtual event this year. At the initial event in March 2019, there were 113 participants, who represented 69 state and non-state actors in service delivery/governance.

Belize Association of Planners, in partnership with Research Triangle International and the US Embassy, held a 1st Summit on "Improving Data Ecosystem for Governance and Decision Making in Belize," on Wednesday March 6th, 2019. It was an awesome experience, with 113 participants from all districts and representing 68 organizations. This included government (central, municipal and village government and quasi-government), academia, civil society (46 or 67.6%) media and parliament. It was a historic first step on the journey for collaboration, networking and partnerships between all actors in the urban space, to bring about improved serviced delivery and accountability, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Among its objectives were to raise awareness of local and national data sources for governance decision-making; discuss contemporary challenges to governance decision-making; enhance the leadership capacity of public officers and community organizers for governance decision-making; and Identify civil society organizations to conduct microstudies related to governance and Improved decision-making.

Some of the key challenges that arose from last year's summit include the absence of a national directory of CSOs; the interchangeable use of the concepts of CSOs and NGOs; and the varying stages of organizational development of NGOs. For the first time, it was revealed that there is a foundation directory to conduct research and analysis of the CSOs landscape and to compile a National Data Base of Civil Society Actors in Service Delivery (NDACSO) which can be used by local, regional and global state and non-state partners interested in improving the data ecosystem for governance decision making in Belize through partnerships with CSOs. Secondly, it was revealed that there is a low percentage of NGOs which are registered as NGOs, creating an uncertainty as to whether they are engaged in governance and service delivery. Of the 45 registered membership of the BNN, 21 or 47% have environmental related mandates.

Thanks to Research Triangle Institute and the US Embassy for their support, the Statistical Institute of Belize, the Belize Association of Planners team and all the participants. We look forward to this year's event.

BAP's ED Urges 2020 Graduates to Resist Greed & Self-Enrichment



The 2020 graduates of John Paul II Junior College in Benque Viejo received valuable advice from BAP's Executive Director, during graduation ceremonies held on June 26th. As guest speaker, Mrs. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford shared both her joy in the glorious moment of their achievement, and her thoughts on the graduates' role in shaping the future of Belize for theirs and the next generation.

She shared that despite COVID-19 exposing how the revolution has been sabotaged, the students have offered her hope of a changing future. "I see them poised and equipped, ready to shape the future of this nation state; and I am convinced that the experiences shared and the values instilled in them, give them the courage and the capacity to take charge of their destiny, and that of our country..." Trench-Sandiford noted.

As future leaders of Belize, Trench-Sandiford cautioned that their deliverance must be different than past leaders like Gwen Lizarraga, Anthony Soberanis, and others.

"It must be progressive with transformational thinking, as peaceful and constructive are no longer palatable to the landless, the hungry and the hopeless. It must also be one aligned with technology, with an entire nation on board, and a blue-print for ensuring that the wealth untold is so distributed as to improve the socio-economic status for all as needed, and not just a few," she explained.

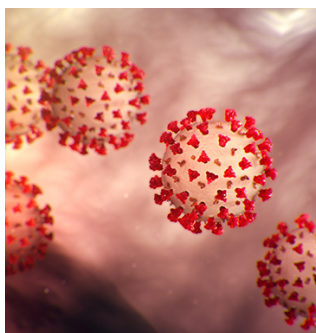
As Generation Z, Trench-Sandiford urged the graduates to resist from germinating the cancer of greed and self-enrichment, and take a zero tolerance approach to corruption and mismanagement of our resources. She asked that they abide by the constitution of Belize, and above all, to put God and country first, always, before any personal interests. It is only by doing so will they be able to deliver on the promise of the revolution and elevate Belize to developed nation status.



MISSION – To address relevant planning and development issues in Belize by working in partnership with the public and private sector and civil society organizations, and the people of Belize through research, education, advocacy and action.

FOR UPDATES ON COVID-19

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VISION – BAP is a proactive professional planning organization committed to assuring social justice and promoting sustainability in the natural and built environment.

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