



BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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

Wednesday, October 31st, 2018

BCCI and ILO launch “Skills Gap Study on the Agriculture and ICT sectors”

-For Immediate Release-



The Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) with the support and funding from the International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted a study to identify the gaps in the skills of tertiary level graduates and the skills that are being sought by employers. This Skills Gap Study was done in the Agriculture and ICT Sectors and has been put together in a formal publication. On Tuesday, October 30th the BCCI was proud to launch this “Skills Gap Study” at an official ceremony held at the BCCI’s Harry Lawrence Conference Room on 4792 Coney Drive, Belize City.

Mr. Arturo Vasquez, Immediate Past President of the BCCI, who holds the Labour Portfolio, opened the meeting reiterating the BCCI’s commitment as the only official Employers’ Organization in Belize to the growth and development of Belize. He underscored the fact that this will be difficult to achieve without ensuring that our people are adequately equipped for the labour market. Dr. Margarita Gomez, Director of Employment Training & Education Services (ETES) of the Ministry of Education made some brief remarks on the Ministry of Education’s commitment to bridging the gap between





employers' needs and the skills of workers. Mr. Dyon Elliott, Chief Policy Analyst of the BCCI and Researcher on the Skills Gap Study, made a presentation on the methodology of the study, the results and the way forward.

In summary, the study analyzed the gaps between the needs of employers and the Belize economy and the available skills in the agriculture and ICT sectors. This study will provide to learning institutions and the Ministry of Education areas where improvement of training programs and the education curriculum can be improved in order that workers are better equipped to meet the demands of the employers in the Agriculture and ICT sectors. A follow up study is planned to commence in 2019 in the Agro-processing and Tourism sectors.

A presentation of a hard copy of the report was made to the CEO in the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Deborah Domingo by Mr. Vasquez. Mrs. Domingo expressed her appreciation of the study as it would provide data to inform curriculum changes at the Ministry.

For more information on this study, please feel free to contact Mr. Dyon Elliott at analyst@belize.org or call 223-5330.

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