



PR#575

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Belize and the Republic of China (Taiwan) Hold 2<sup>nd</sup> Disbursement Ceremony for Beneficiaries of the Women Empowerment Project in Belize**

*Belmopan. December 8, 2021. 11:45 a.m.*

The “Enhancing the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the COVID-19 Post-Pandemic Era: Technical Assistance for Women Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Financial Inclusion” project by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration and the Republic of China (Taiwan) held its second handing over ceremony for the beneficiaries of the project on December 7, 2021.

The donation today was made possible through the commitment and hard work of Ambassador Amalia Mai, CEO in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and H.E. David Kuan-Chou Chien, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and is a testament to the strong relationship between the two countries.

The project supports the implementation of vocational skills training delivered through reputable organizations and institutions in Belize, as well as start-up support for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). As such, three new beneficiaries for women’s vocational training and four beneficiaries for start-up support received funds.

The beneficiaries are:

- Women’s Vocational Training:
  1. BELTRAIDE "Belize Female Entrepreneurship Program (Orange Walk)"
  2. Heritage Education Network Belize “Digital Literacy Training for Women’s Groups & MSME’s in the Cultural & Creativity Industry”
  3. Belize Tourism Industry Association: Caye Caulker Chapter “Utilizing Island Resources for Sustainable Caye Caulker Livelihoods”

- MSME Start-up Support selected from the Belize Investment Summit 2021 “Start-up Pitch Competition”:

Winner:

1. Luba Ereba Women's Group- Casava Bakery

Angel Fund Recipients:

2. Wild Roots - Organic Natural Juices
3. Zero Belize - Paper Bag Production
4. Umbraland Boots and Leather - Genuine Leather Products

Thus far, the project has directly supported the empowerment of 125 women and youth during these economically challenging times. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Immigration and the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), along with the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan ICDF), are committed to the continuation of the project to extend its reach to all areas of Belize.

**Ends**