

Ministry of Economic Development, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection
City of Belmopan
Belize

Ref: BEL/ADMIN/011 (31)

June 4th, 2009

PRESS RELEASE

FINPYME BELIZE COMMENCES DIAGNOSTICS

In March 2009, the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC), a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Group, in collaboration with the Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE) successfully launched the FINPYME program in Belize. Since then, applications were received and thirteen (13) companies were chosen as the first tranche for the FINPYME program.

The IIC and BELTRAIDE has collaborated with the two main universities in the Belize – the University of Belize and Galen University, to train professors in the unique FINPYME methodology, specifically designed to help small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) grow and develop. The trained professors will work with the selected enterprises to carry out comprehensive analyses and compile the findings in a “Competitiveness Improvement Plan” report for the business owners. Plans are designed to facilitate the SMEs in their strategic planning, including access to finance.

Mr. Francisco Perez, a consultant from Costa Rica, is arriving in Belize on June 10, 2009 to offer support to Belize’s FINPYME Consultants as they commence the diagnostic process. This consultant has been instrumental in administering the FINPYME Program in Cost Rica and will be providing guidance as we embark on this innovative venture in Belize.

For more information on the project, contact **BELTRAIDE**.

-END-

Contact:

BELTRAIDE

14 Orchid Garden Street, Belmopan

Tel: 501-822-3737 Fax: 501-822-0595

Email: beltraide@belizeinvest.org.bz

Web: www.belizeinvest.org.bz