



tionally, since 1997, the Chamber is the only recognized “Employers Organization” in Belize under the International Labor Organization’s (ILO) tri-partite social partnership.

Currently, the BCCI boasts a fluctuating membership of almost 300 Belizean businesses, representing over 1,500 employers, from a wide cross-section of the agricultural, productive, service, and industrial sectors. The BCCI’s mandate is legally enshrined in Chapter 308 of the Laws of Belize under the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry Act. The specific objectives of the organization are as follows:

The goals of the Chamber shall be: to encourage, enhance and promote an investment climate which is favorable to both local and

foreign investors; to continuously work towards the strengthening of the partnership between the public and private sectors, and the growth of private enterprise; to promote and encourage commercial ventures and capital investment; to promote the development of services, agriculture, tourism, fishing, forestry, industry, aquaculture, manufacturing, and other related fields; to undertake, promote, and facilitate economic and financial studies as a guide to investment; to consider, discuss, and take action on questions directly or indirectly relating to or affecting commerce and industry generally, including promoting, supporting, or lawfully opposing legislative or other concerns affecting the entire country; to collect and distribute statistical and

other information relating to commercial services, and the business, tourism, and manufacturing sectors, including the professions and the trades in Belize; to foster and encourage co-operation among private, financial, and non-governmental organizations in the development and use of their human resources to strengthen and improve the economic development of Belize; to promote the development of export-oriented businesses so as to increase foreign earnings and aid growth; to actively promote Belize abroad as an ideal country for foreign investment and a popular destination for tourists; to promote and support the cultural and scientific advancement of Belize with due regard to the protection of the environment and the preservation and promotion of Belize’s cultural heritage; to liaise closely with the Government on matters of national importance and interest; to promote and foster the tri-partite relationship with Government, Employers, and Labor through active participation in, and contribution to, relevant representative organizations and bodies nationally and internationally.

The businesses that are members of the BCCI include, but are not limited to importers, exporters, manufacturers and producers, auto dealers/distrib-

