



Organization of
American States



Inter-American
Development Bank



INFOSEGURA
PROJECT

PRESS RELEASE

October 25th, 2016. City of Belmopan.

Launch of the Belize Crime Observatory. The long anticipated launch of Belize' s first crime observatory came to fruition at the Radisson Fort George Hotel and Marina in Belize City, Belize. A cross section of over sixty officials from the Government of Belize, the diplomatic core and representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations were in attendance.

The key speakers at this event were: Dr. Cassandra Rogers (Belize Country Manager, Inter-American Development Bank), Ms. Karen Bernard (Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Belize), Ms. Marcela Smutt (Regional Team Leader, InfoSegura Project), Mr. George Lovell (Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs) and Mrs. Nicole Haylock-Rodriguez (Deputy Coordinator, National Security Council Secretariat and Director of the Belize Crime Observatory). The remarks from these key speakers reiterated a congratulatory sense of fulfilment at the launch of the observatory which is a platform to developed to promote evidence based policy formulation in security. The donors and consultants involved were acknowledged as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs for the work that was done to develop the Belize Crime Observatory (BCO).

A presentation was made by Ms. Cuffa Ramirez, the Project Liaison Officer for the Evidence Based Information Management for Citizen Security Project (InfoSegura Project), on the utility of the user-friendly Belize Crime Observatory Website (***crimeobservatory.bz***). Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jorge Villanueva presented the advantages of the use of ArcGIS and CrimeAnalyst software at the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Centre. The Joint Intelligence Coordinating Centre is the primary source of crime data that is used for the observatory and its analysts have benefitted from training and equipment supported by both the Inter-American Development Bank and the InfoSegura Project.

At the culmination of the launch, Mrs. Nicole Haylock Rodriguez expressed gratitude to the Government of Belize, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme in Belize, USAID and the InfoSegura Project for their support in the establishment of the Belize Crime Observatory.

The cost to develop the Belize Crime Observatory is approximately \$500,000 Belize Dollars. The mission of the BCO is to support improvements in citizen security by informing, interpreting and influencing the understanding of crime. Through its website, the observatory will promote the systematic sharing of data, research, dialogue and debate about crime, violence and public safety issues in Belize whilst strengthening the collection and processing of data within the relevant agencies. The observatory will facilitate the development of research based public policies and programs that will address crime, violence and public safety issues in the country.

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