

## TAIWANICDF SUPPORTS BELIZE TELEMEDIA LIMITED'S ACCELERATED ROLLOUT OF ITS NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN

Belize Telemedia Limited today announced that the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF), a primary official aid agency of the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), has loaned the company 35 Million BZD (\$17.5M USD). This loan will help fund the countrywide roll-out of BTL's National Broadband Plan, and was approved by the National Assembly of Belize. This also helps the government spearhead its Digital e-Government Crusade, as well as facilitate partnerships and cooperation between the governments and the private sector of Belize and Taiwan on information and telecommunications technologies



BTL's National Broadband Plan was introduced in May 2017 and it is the company's countrywide replacement of the existing copper network with ultra-modern fiber optic technology, the same technology powering the most digitally advanced countries in the world. We have already seen the rollout of DigiNet, BTL's fiber internet product in six locations: San Pedro, North Belize City, Belmopan, Orange Walk, Placencia, Belama the company has enabled high quality connectivity for homes, businesses and industries in these areas.

BTL's CEO, Rochus Schreiber shared that "the funding from the TaiwanICDF will provide the necessary funding to accelerate the countrywide rollout of DigiNet placing Belize on par with leading jurisdictions in the US, the UK and other developed countries." Furthermore, DigiNet improves the competitiveness of Belizean businesses in the global connected economy, fosters the creation of new ventures and helps to attract new inward investment. The World Development Report 2016 states that: Digital Dividends concludes "a 10 percentage point increase in fixed broadband penetration would increase GDP growth by 1.21% in developed economies and 1.38% in developing ones."

TaiwanICDF Secretary General Ambassador Hsiang stated at the ceremony that based on Taiwan's successful development experience in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, the TaiwanICDF has been dedicated to cooperation with our partner countries in Central America and the Caribbean on ICT-based projects since 2006.

At the ceremony, Nestor Vasquez, BTL's Chairman of the Board of Directors stated, "the loan completes the full financing of \$96 Million BZD required for the National Broadband Plan and we are pleased we were able to secure an instrumental investment of \$17.5 Million USD from the TaiwanICDF. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our investors."

The Company held its Loan Signing Ceremony at the DigiCell Store and invited guests included The Republic of China (Taiwan) Ambassador to Belize Charles Liu, Taiwan ICDF Secretary General Ambassador, Timothy T.Y. Hsiang, Joseph Waight, Financial Secretary GOB, BTL's Board of Directors and Executive Management.

