

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Keeping Independence Alive: Belize @45

30 September – 1 October 2026
Conference Center, University of Belize
Belmopan, Belize

Purpose

In 1981, independence came for Belize with high expectations. The key political goal was breaking from British domination and gaining freedom. Independence also was to be the beginning of building a new and decolonized nation. It came with promises and hopes of improved livelihoods, economic prosperity and better governance. How has Belize done over these 45 years? How can Belize do better?

The Belize Policy Research Institute (BEPRI) at the University of Belize, in collaboration with the Institute of Social and Cultural Research - National Institute of Culture and History (ISCR-NICH) will host a research conference on the theme Keeping Independence Alive: Belize @ 45 on September 30 to October 1, 2026, in Belmopan City, Belize.

The Conference will be in-person only. The objectives are to:

1. Critically explore and assess the meaning of Belize's independence, its successes, failures and contradictions over the past 45 years.
2. Discuss and propose policy measures for innovative options for building a better Belize.
3. Procure papers to propose a special issue of the Journal of Belizean Research (University of Belize) on the theme of the Conference.



Conference Themes and Programme

The Conference will feature 21 presentations divided into eight panels over the two days. The themes of the panels are:

- The Unfinished Work of Decolonization
- The Economy and Trade
- Environmental Justice and Resilience
- Education Then and Now
- The US and Us
- Culture and Identity
- Securing the Nation
- Community and Development

Day two will feature the book launch of *Enduring Diplomacy: Belize, 1971–2026* by Assad Shoman and Alexis Rosado.

Key Conference Information

- The Opening Ceremony will be at 9:00 am on September 30, 2026, and will feature a keynote address.
- Presentations will be in-person only and will be recorded.
- There will be two to three presentations per panel and time for discussion.
- Registration is required but does not carry a cost.
- Lunch will be provided for presenters.
- The venue for all presentations is the Conference Centre at the University of Belize in the City of Belmopan.

The Conference Programme will be shared with all registered participants and be publicly available on Belpri-UB's website three weeks before the conference.



Click the Address for the Map

[Hummingbird Avenue, Belmopan, Belize](#)



Click the Link or Scan the QR Code to Register

<https://forms.gle/uGRmdMaz3toNRxV19>



Click the Link Below for the Conference Guide:

<https://ub.edu.bz/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Conference-guide-1.pdf>

For more Information Contact:

+501 223-0256 Ext. 2070

belpri@ub.edu.bz