



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Telephone: +1 246 431 0343  
Telefax: +1 246 437 7403  
E-mail: Cleveland.thomas@itu.int

ITU Member States, Regulators and ITU-D  
Sector Members in the Caribbean region

Subject: **Forum on Internet of Things (IOT): Smarter Living in the Caribbean, 24-26 April 2017 and Digital Financial Services (DFS) Workshop 27-28 April 2017, Port-of- Spain, Trinidad & Tobago**

Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in the “Forum on Internet of Things (IOT): Smarter Living in the Caribbean, from 24 to 26 April 2017 and a Workshop on Digital Financial Services from 27 to 28 April 2017, to be held in Port-of- Spain, Trinidad & Tobago at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad. The first event is co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), The UWI St. Augustine Campus and the Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU). The second event is in collaboration with all partners of the first event and the Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean (ECLAC.)

The forum on “IOT” seeks to highlight the significance of IOT as a technological revolution that represents the future of computing and communications, and its development being dependent on dynamic technical innovation. IOT involves the interlinking of networks, devices and data that have thus far never been linked. It is the collective power of these formerly disparate elements that lies at the heart of the power of IOT and integrated dynamic ICT ecosystems that can benefit both developed and developing economies.

The primary objective of the IOT Forum is to :

- Discuss the role IOT plays in relation to converging technologies for building smart sustainable communities with integrated ecosystems.
- Discuss IOT and development challenges and the paradigm shift in creating a smart world that facilitates sustainable economic development along with a high quality of life.
- Bring together:
  - stakeholders, managers and engineers working with IOT applications (innovators)
  - service providers planning on delivering IOT solutions, and their financiers (business community)
  - policy and standards creators/enforcers for IOT deployment (policymakers, regulators)
  - other IOT experts from industry, government and academia (legislators)

Following the IOT Forum, the DFS Workshop that will be carried out from 27 to 28 April 2017, serves as a follow up to the Financial Technology (Fin Tech) workshop held in Trinidad 1st -3rd June 2016. Its primary

purpose and objective is to continue providing Caribbean stakeholders from various sectors with interactive sessions along the theme of utilizing technology innovations towards the goal of improving financial transactions and financing arrangements.

Participants will, inter alia:

- Discuss the latest market and regulatory developments affecting the Digital Financial Services sector;
- Utilise the platform for dialogue between the telecom and financial services regulators to discuss emerging issues and best practices for the policy and regulatory framework for financial inclusion; and
- Identify collective action and specific next steps to advance the work on Digital Financial Services within the region.

The two events will dovetail into each other and as such participants will discuss:

- Spectrum Management, Security and applications issues related to the deployment of IOT and DFS
- Opportunities and challenges faced by policy makers and regulators during the adoption of a widespread IOT and DFS ecosystem; risks and threats associated with deployment of IOT and DFS and ways to mitigate these potential threats utilizing licensing techniques and implementation of international standards
- IOT and DFS innovation

The targeted Caribbean stakeholder audience will include:

- Policy makers & leaders seeking greater participation in the digital economy
- Financial and telecommunications/ICT regulators
- Academia and institutions critical to research and development of the innovation sector
- Entrepreneurs seeking to develop and use innovative financial solutions
- Mobile network operators, banks, financial service providers, mobile financial services platform providers
- International organizations, NGOs involved in financial inclusion programmes and civil society.

The preliminary working agendas are attached hereto. Registration takes place online can be accessed using the link below:

<http://www.itu.int/go/regitud>

For further information, please contact Mr. Cleveland Thomas, Area Representative ITU Area Office for the Caribbean, e-mail : [Cleveland.thomas@itu.int](mailto:Cleveland.thomas@itu.int); Mr. Sylvester Cadette, Programme Officer, ITU Area Office, Bridgetown Barbados, e-mail: [sylvester.cadette@itu.int](mailto:sylvester.cadette@itu.int), tel.: +(246)431-0343/4 or Ms. Sheron Small, ITU Caribbean Administrative Assistant, email: [Sheron.small@itu.int](mailto:Sheron.small@itu.int).

I look forward to your positive response and active participation in these important events.

Yours sincerely,

**Bruno Ramos**

**Regional Director for the Americas**