



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

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Ministry of Public Administration

# Connectivity and National Development: A Trinidad & Tobago perspective

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# The Big Picture

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- 2015 - a watershed year on global development calendar:
  - Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
  - WSIS Objectives
- UN internal review of progress towards MDGs:
  - Most ICT MDG objectives will be met
  - Progress on many others lagging behind
- Conclusion:
  - Good progress is being made on the ICT4D agenda
  - Focus on ICT as cross-cutting enabler for development

# The *Connect the World* Initiative

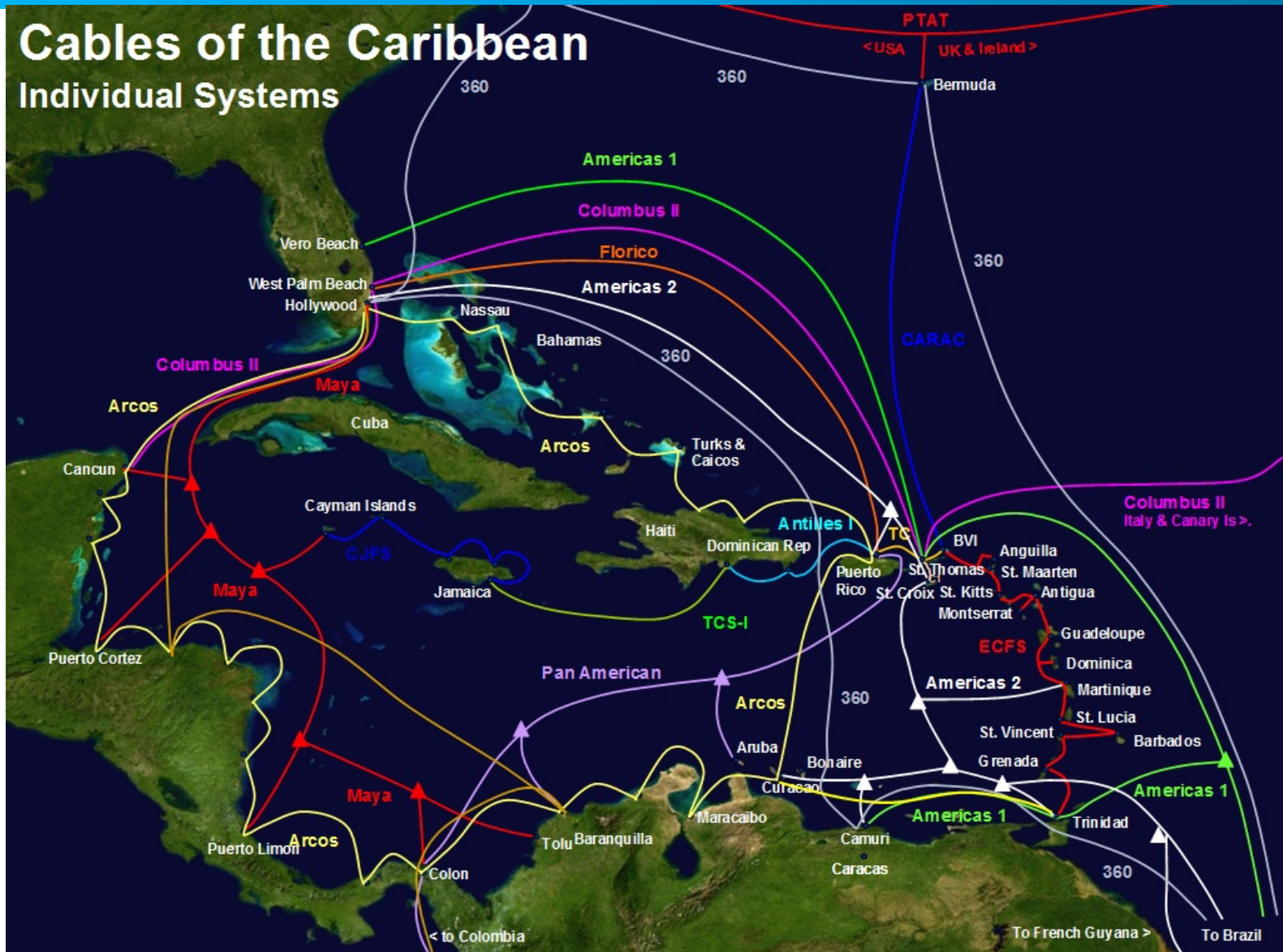
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- ITU: Connect the Unconnected by 2015
- Broadband Commission for Digital Development
  - Established May 2010
  - Co-Chaired by H.E. President Paul Kagame (Rwanda) and Mr. Carlos Slim
- Major targets - by 2015:
  1. Broadband Policy Universal
  2. Broadband Affordable
  3. Homes connected to Broadband
  4. More people online

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# **The Trinidad & Tobago Picture**

# Caribbean Connectivity



# The Trinidad & Tobago Picture

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- **Trinidad & Tobago - External connectivity:**
  - Currently serviced by 6 fiber-optic cables
  - However, all cable landed in Trinidad - Tobago receives external connectivity via Trinidad
- **Trinidad & Tobago - Internal Connectivity:**
  - Commercial Networks
  - Government Networks (GovNeTT; NREN in the pipeline)
  - Mobile connectivity (2 providers; possibility of a third)
  - Wireless Hotspots
  - Unutilized resources (Dark Fibre etc.)

# The Trinidad & Tobago Picture II

| Indicator                                       | T&T Measure       | Comments                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Access to fixed-line telephones                 | 67% of households | #56 of 142 in 2010 WEF                          |
| Household access to Broadband                   | 52% of households |                                                 |
| Mobile penetration                              | 137% (Sep 2011)   | #21 in WEF                                      |
| Mobile phone users with access to data services | 566,358 (2012)    | Access speed not currently considered Broadband |

# The Trinidad & Tobago Picture III

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- **Conclusion:**
  - **Considerable progress with physical connectivity**
  - **Improved coordination / utilization existing resources needed**
  - **Implementation of Universality Policy (and USF) will further improve situation**
  - **Major challenge: improving connectivity in Tobago**

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# **National Connectivity Agenda: Promoting Usage and Uptake**

# The Trinidad & Tobago National Development Strategy

- ICT is integral to National Development Strategy:
  - Key Sector for economic diversification
  - Critical tool to improve national competitiveness
  - Cross-cutting enabler for sustainable development
- *Of 7 Interconnected Pillars for sustainable Development:*
  - Pillar 4: ICT
  - Pillar 5: Knowledge-economy
- T&T's National Connectivity Agenda is critical to creating an enabling environment for leveraging ICTs

# National Connectivity Agenda (NCA)

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- Objectives of T&T's NCA include:
  - To provide all citizens with access to affordable Internet access
  - To build capacity among citizens to effectively utilize the Internet, with special emphasis on young persons and marginalized groups, including the differently abled
  - Promote a culture of innovation
  - Accelerate the transformation of T&T into a knowledge-based society
  - Proposed standards / benchmarks currently being finalized

# Frameworks to Promote Connectivity

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- ❑ T&T is pursuing an **e-Legislative Agenda** to help create a suitable enabling environment to promote connectivity:
  - ✓ **Telecoms Regulations** are being reviewed / updated
  - ✓ **Electronic Transactions Act** proclaimed early 2012
  - ✓ **Data Protection and Privacy Act** proclaimed early 2012
  - ✓ Amendments to the **Telecoms Act** being finalized
  - ✓ Work also ongoing on amendments to the **Audit and Exchequer Act**
  - ✓ Amendments to the **Freedom of Information Act** in the pipeline
  - ✓ The T&T **Cyber-Security Agenda** being elaborated (with appropriate Cyber-Crime Legislation to follow)

# Focus on e-Services

- Prioritization of e-Services:
  - All relevant Government **Information** currently on T&T e-Government Online Portal (*ttconnect*)
  - Rollout of e-Services is now top priority
- Examples of e-Services include:
  - Single Electronic Window (SEW, i.e. *TTBiaLink*), including Import / Export Facilitation, work permits, company registration, etc.)
  - Online Filing (and Payment) of Taxes
  - e-Health: e.g. development National Health Information System (NHIS); immediate access to test results; remote diagnostics; etc.

# Improved Services

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- *e-Commerce* –

Will impact employment, sales, productivity, and investment throughout the economy. Jobs will be created, both in the technology fields but also in the sales, marketing, administration and manufacturing sectors.

- *e-Education* -

Increased use of distance and virtual learning; general infusion of ICTs in the Education System; development of a National Research and Education Network (NREN) linking all tertiary and technical / vocation training stakeholders; etc.

# Improved Services II

- e-Justice and National Security – e.g. utilization of video-conferencing by the Justice System; use of online documents by courts; networking of information systems for use by authorized officials; etc.
- Multi-Channel Service Delivery (*ttconnect*): Offering citizens a range of different options for accessing government service:
  - ❑ *ttconnect* Online (the e-Government Portal)
  - ❑ *ttconnect* Service Centers
  - ❑ *ttconnect* Express (mobile service centers, using buses)
  - ❑ *ttconnect* self-service Kiosks
  - ❑ *ttconnect* Mobile (via mobile phones)

# **The Way Forward**

# Future (and Continuing) Initiatives

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- Infrastructure:
  - Implementation of Nat'l Broadband Plan
  - Promotion widespread Internet Access
  - Update of Universality Policy
  - Vision: 5MB(+) speeds by 2015
- Enabling environment:
  - Completion of e-Legislative Agenda
  - Continued development of Telecoms and Broadcasting Sector
  - Human capacity building



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**Thank You!**

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