Connecting the Caribbean and the Americas:

List of Areas for possible Regional projects

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Single Development Vision

- *A full-employment economy*
- *A decent standard of living & quality of life for all citizens*
- *Elimination of poverty*
- *Adequate opportunities for young people*
- *Spatially equitable economic growth within the Community*

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Single Development Vision 2/2

- *Social equity, justice, cohesion, personal security*
- *Environmental protection, ecological sustainability*
- *Democratic transparent, participatory governance*

- *'Girvan Report, Towards a Single Economy, 2007'*

Role of the CARICOM Secretariat

- Priniciple administrative and technical arm of the Caribbean Community.

- Strategies, plans

- Ensure harmonisation of most regional initiatives

- ICT – mandated to coordinate all activities related to ICT and the development of the CARICOM Information Society.

- Not responsible for implementation.

Regional organisations /institutions

- All other regional organisations formed by the Secretary General – CARICOM (on mandate from Heads)
  - CTU
  - CDEMA
  - CRITI
  - CARICAD
  - CKLN
  - CROSQ
- CANTO not a CARICOM entity but active partner in ICT initiatives

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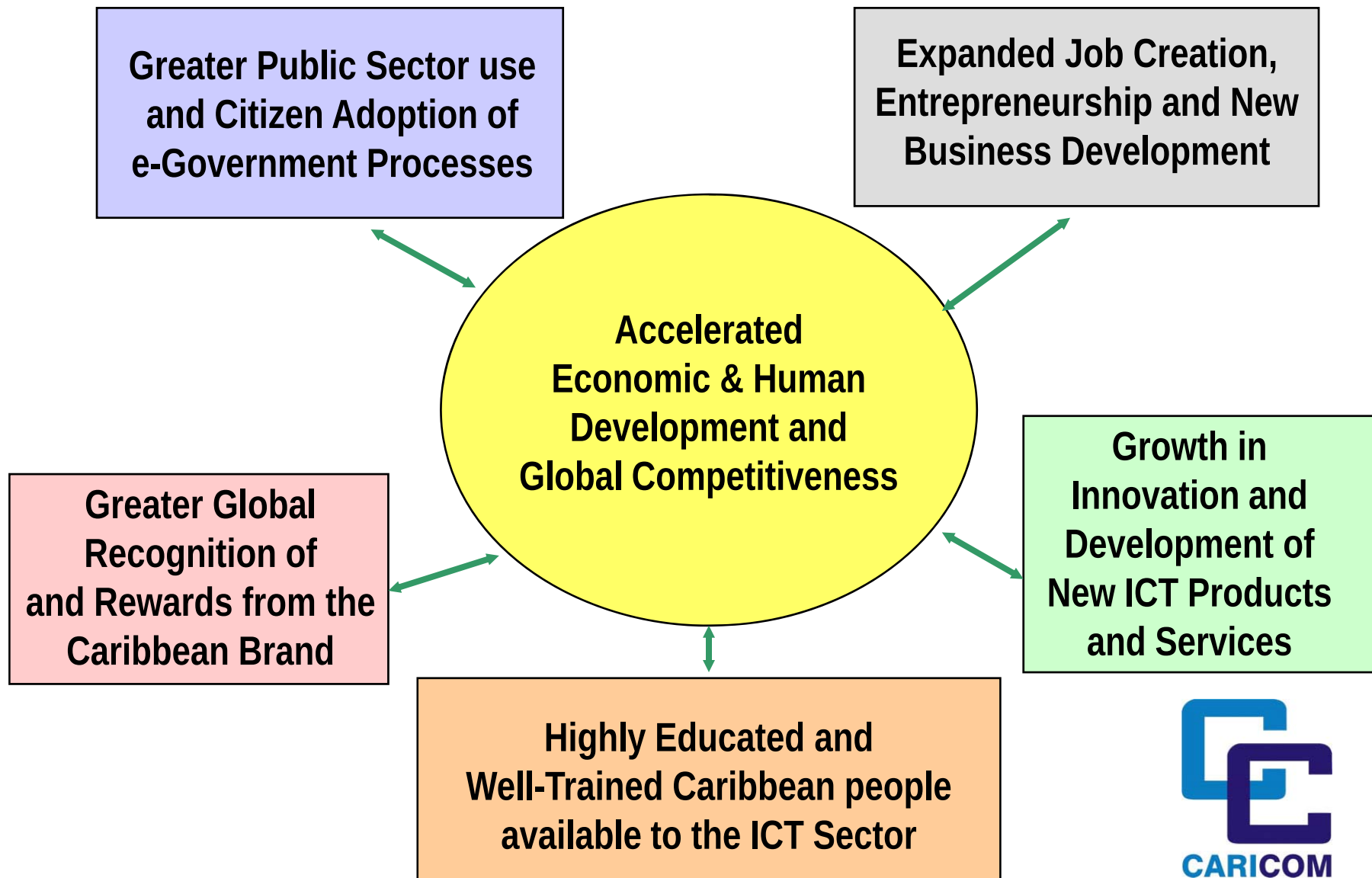
Strategy as Base

- Regional Digital Development Strategy (RDDS):
  - Access, connectivity and Internet governance

  - Capacity-building and sustainability

  - Business, trade, culture and disaster management

  - Policy formulation and the legal and regulatory framework for implementation

  - ICT4D statistics

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Context

- ***New Economy: Information Society/Knowledge Economy***
  - ***Inclusive and Collective***
  - ***Collaborative digital*** *environment*
  - ***People empowered*** *by the availability of information*
  - ***People generate knowledge*** *through interaction.*

Strategic Development Outcomes Include:

Greater Public Sector use and Citizen Adoption of e-Government Processes

Expanded Job Creation, Entrepreneurship and New Business Development

Accelerated Economic & Human Development and Global Competitiveness

Greater Global Recognition of and Rewards from the Caribbean Brand

Growth in Innovation and Development of New ICT Products and Services

Highly Educated and Well-Trained Caribbean people available to the ICT Sector

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Challenges

- CONNECTIVITY
- CAPACITY
- CONTENT
- COMMUNITY
- COMMERCE
- CAPITAL
- Formal Access vs. Effective Access

Challenges

- Education
- Aged/Aging population
- Fragmented harmonisation
- Public sector in need of reform
- Private sector which has not lead innovation
- Sectors which need innovation
- International Aid – becoming non-existent (sectoral, 'siloed', have not re-profiled)
- Climate change

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Regional imperatives

- **Collaborative leadership/governance** *(rationalise overlapping functions of multiple agencies)*
  - Research and Innovation *(application supporting sustainability)*
  - Key social & Economic development measures *(ICTs providing a supportive environment in communities, lifelong learning, business, government)*

List of Areas

- Women and Children in ICT (Education / capacity Building)
- Regional organisations as key organisms for the Regional System
- Preserving (and capitalising from) our Caribbean Cultural heritage
  - Cultural Diversity
  - Innovation
- Exploiting Open Source as a key enabler for Regional Trade –in-Services
- Climate Change
- Measuring the Caribbean Information/Knowledge Society

Capacity Building: Women and Children

- Regional programme
  - Database with biographical data
  - Link with School Mgmt systems
  - 2-5 year programme – Capacity Building

    - Harmonised Basic IT literacy Course (Regional) – online testing and certification
    - Build specific learning 'Bundles'
    - Form a Women and Girls Regional chapter (supported by National Chapters)
    - Chapters would be responsible for managing the training programmes in each country (women, boys and girls)
    - Opportunity to do case studies with different types of learning technologies and tools
    - Entrepreneurial training included for the women (Using Internet) ~ community access centres
    - ~reinforce that tech. Tools could be tools of development not just toys

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Capacity Building: Women and Children

- Regional programme:
  - ➤ Technology literacy (Skill based)
  - ➤ Knowledge deepening (ICT in problem solving)
  - ➤ Knowledge creation(problem solving and creating solutions)
  - – Digital Citizens
    - Disadvantaged and underserved
  - – Knowledge Workers
    - Targeted Government, Private sector
    - Specific skill sets and applications (project management,
    - Opportunity for new applications (IT department may become business application arm)
  - – Policy & Guidelines (Digital Content Project)

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Sustainability for the Knowledge society

- Linking the Secretariat's (information space) – OECS, ACS, CCS, SELA
- Application:
  - CARICOM at a glance *
    - Technology in the Hands of our leaders
    - CSME, News, Schedules

- Plus National Governments – Single Information space –
  - Strategy for: outsourcing info- management, info-sharing
  - Utilising new technologies (e.g. Cloud)

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Preserving our Caribbean Cultural heritage

- Cultural Diversity
  - Digital local language library
- Case Studies
- Legislation Project
  - Audiovisual and Media policies
  - The sector includes motion picture and video tape production ~ and sound recording (WTO 2000).
  - Questions : what is broadcasting?
  - Changes : analogue to digital
- Innovation

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Preserving our Caribbean Cultural heritage

- Digital Content Project
  - Establishment of Digital Content Consortium
  - Roadmap of information /knowledge assets
  - Digitally connected information producers
  - Preservation
  - Policies & Standards
  - Compilation of new knowledge products
  - Regional search engine (local languages)
  - Internet based directories

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Exploiting Open Source as a key enabler for Regional initiatives

- Trade in Services

- Innovation

- Opportunities for 'killer applications'
  - E.g. Health + Tourism + Agriculture + Transport

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Single ICT CARICOM Space

- stimulating growth in the sector
- boosting competitiveness across the economy
- Bigger single market
- Consistent rules
- Single numbering plan
- Common spectrum space
- Promotes opportunities for research/innovation

Single ICT space

- Monitor development of and manage the region's ICT markets,
  - including wireless spectrum and other such assets as a regional collective .
- Establish Laws/regulations to support
  - competition liberalization,
  - sustainable living,
  - working practices, human rights,
  - trust (security)
- Determine policy on collective negotiation
  - reduced cost of technology and services, (incl. Landing rights)
- Lobby for treatment of the Region as one economic block for cost advantage.
- Benchmarking on regional 'standards'
  - E.g. Minimum Acceptable Bandwidth (Gov't, Business, Consumer

Single ICT CARICOM Space

- Project which develops a road-map
  - Legislation
  - One 'area' code
  - New role for regulators (training ++)
  - One CARICOM copyright, domain name,
  - Revise Electronic Communications Regulatory framework
  - Radio Spectrum Management Strategy
  - Modernise the legal framework for audiovisual
  - services
  - Promote interoperability, particularly in digital rights management
  - Develop Information /Knowledge Society Strategy
  - Common procurement

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Other Projects

- Regional search engine
- ICT & Disaster Management & Mitigation
  - Health, Tourism, Agriculture
- ICT Youth Club
  - Collaboration
  - New enterprises
- ICT & Climate Change
  - Robustness (GIS mapping, social networks, mobile applications (e.g. integrating farmers – more national / regional produce)

Tracking Information/Knowledge Society

- Regional Info. Society Management Unit
  - Trends / Security risks
  - Policy
  - Marketing
  - News
- Regional Consortium on Statistics & indicators ~digitally linked to be an International
  - Training
  - Measuring right
  - Census
  - New indicators
  - Tracking core indicators (aproxx 200
- Digital space for indicators (Private /public)
  - Partnership Core already developed
- Website for best/worst practices, case studies
- sub-committee on ICT Statistics and Indicators

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Example : Access

Formal Access – Physical reach
- *Effective Access* *– Physical reach with impact, which considers:*

Financial affordability
User expertise
Ease of interface
Relevance of content

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Funding

- Establish a funding model to include a dynamic marketing programme, with sector champions, driven focused leadership,
  - Benchmark the example, of the funding for HIV AIDS project (PANCAP) for the Caribbean
  - Increase efforts to attract major private national and foreign investments (for application of digital technologies) by developing a predictable enabling investment environment (new businesses, legal++)
  - Existing relationships (MOUs,
  - Re-profiling of our budgets
  - Targeted, strategic Proposals (Candidacy, venue)
  - Universal service Funds (as seed money?)

Thank you for your attention!

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