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CONNECT THE AMERICAS – CONNECT THE CARIBBEAN POSITION PAPER CONTRIBUTION

Objectives of CTC Position Paper

1. Development oriented objectives of the region's ICT-centred organizations
2. Status of Connectivity in the region and factors inhibiting the full exploitation of ICTs for growth
   1. Discussion of Competitiveness of the Region

Entities from which ICT4D information was gleaned

1. CARICOM Secretariat
2. CANTO
3. CTU
4. CBU
5. CARICAD
6. CDEMA
7. CONATEL
8. ODPEM
9. CKLN
10. CDB
11. Ministry of ICTs, Haiti
12. Govt of Jamaica
13. National Counsel of Telecoms Organizations, Haiti

14. Universal Access Organizations
15. E-Learning Jamaica Limited
16. ECTEL
17. OUR
18. Digicel
19. Flow
20. LIME

Would still love to get insight from
- other regulatory organizations
- other regional ICT agencies
- Other government agencies

The ITU's CTA Regional Initiatives & Thematic Areas

Emergency Communications

- "Intelligent Infrastructures for improving Energy Services Delivery, National Security and Emergency Communications" - Caribbean Consulting and Project Management Ltd
- "Resilient National Emergency Communications Network" - UWI, St. Augustine et. al.,
- ITU – ODPEM Caribbean Regional Emergency Broadband Satellite Repeater System
- "Deployment of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Communication solution" - IBM

Broadband Diffusion in Rural and Urban Areas

- "Regional e-Marketplace" – CANTO
- "Facilitating Citizen Access to Internet Information Resources in Dominica Communities" – CARICAD et. al.,
- "Caribbean Mobile Portal" - James Corbin e-solutions Incorporated
- "ITU – Caribbean e-Learning Project Proposal" – Innovation Consultancy, Guyana
- CTU – Government Information Exchange in support of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy"

The ITU's CTA Regional Initiatives & Thematic Areas

ICTs and Human Cap Bldg

- "Green Tech Caribbean Pilot Project - Use of SMS Platform to Link Organic Farmers with Buyers and Consumers throughout the Caribbean." – CARITEL
- "Caribbean Spectrum Management" – CTU
- "Job Creation using ICTs" – Digital City Jamaica
- "Community and Social Investment Initiatives" – CANTO

Digital Broadcasting

- "Support for Transition from Analogue to Digital Broadcasting in the Caribbean" - ITU

The ITU's CTA Regional Initiatives & Thematic Areas

RIs & Themes for which projects have not yet been submitted

- ICTs and Climate Change
- Internet Access Cost Reduction
- Internet and Cyberthreats

ICT Activities in train
Other Entities

CARICOM Secretariat

- Regional Digital Development Strategy

CBU

- Continuing Digital Switchover work throughout the Caribbean

ICT Activities in train
Other Entities

CDEMA

ICTs for Disaster Mgmt in

- ICTs for Operations
- ICTs for Decision Making
- ICTs for Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
- ICTs for Information Sharing and Gathering

CKLN

- coordinates and manages the development of C@ribNET, the regional Research and Education Network that will connect CARICOM institutions for greater collaboration and functional cooperation
- 3 areas of focus during project implementation

ICT Activities in train in Other Entities

Regulators' ICT4D initiatives

- Regional Digital Switchover Project (OUR)
- In a recent ECTEL study, cost of basic telephony and more advanced services hailed as hindrances by small businesses in the EC.
- A wide range of new pieces of legislation are under various stages of development for ECTEL. These address issues and functions which are critical for the development of the ICT sector – eCommerce, Data Protection and Freedom of Information.
- Still awaiting word from TATT
- Insight from other regulators welcome

ICT Activities in train in Other Entities

- As at May '11, the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Grenada both launched IXPs. Other countries that have begun discussions on IXPs are St Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

- Establishment of Cyber Emergency Response Team (CERT)

- FLOW, DIGICEL and LIME's ICT4D centred activities are also discussed

ICT Activities in train across various entities

Haiti faces unique challenges in her quest for ICT development.

- Enough time has not been spent planning through the best path the country should take to transform to an information society,

- Post the Jan 10, 2012 tragedy, wide felt feeling that the process of transforming the Haitian society is out of the hands of Haitians.

- The argument for ICT investment is hampered by the absence of ICT4D related measurable goals

ICTs – Basic Fulcrum of Natl Competitiveness

The World Economic Forum's (WEF) 2011 – 2012 Global Competitiveness Report lists *Technological Readiness* and *Innovation* as two of twelve pillars of national competitiveness

Technological Readiness predicated upon:

- availability of latest technology,
- firm level technology absorption,
- FDI and technology transfer,
- Internet users (100/population),
- Broadband Internet subscribers (100/population) and
- Internet bandwidth (KBs/capita).

The GCI 2011–2012 rankings and 2010–2011 comparisons

Edited results from World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report 2011-12

Country	GCI '11- '12	GCI '11- '12	2011/12 rank against 2010 countries	2010/11 rank
	Rank	**Score**		
Barbados	42	4.44	42	43
Trinidad and Tobago	81	4.00	81	84
Jamaica	107	3.76	107	95
Guyana	109	3.73	109	110
Dominican Republic	110	3.73	110	101
Suriname	112	3.67	n/a	n/a
Belize	123	3.52	n/a	n/a
Haiti	141	2.90	n/a	n/a

Challenges to Broadband Connectivity

- While the region is vast and heterogeneous as a whole, four main key challenges that affect each country differently can be highlighted:

- **(1)** weak institutions with high costs associated with a lack of physical security;

- **(2)** poor development of infrastructure;

- **(3)** an inefficient allocation of production and human resources; and, increasingly, and

- **(4)** a lag in innovation visà- vis more developed, but also emerging, economies."

Making serious strides to mitigate these issues in the next 3 years will be critical to

- shore up the socio-economic development of the Caribbean

- Accomplish the CTWorld goals of Connectivity by 2015