



## Celebrates World Telecommunications Information and Society Day – “Connecting Persons with disabilities: ICT Opportunities For All:



World Telecommunication Information and Society Day (WTISD) spearheaded by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was observed on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2008. To commemorate this occasion the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations (CANTO) based in Trinidad & Tobago held the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual essay competition dubbed:- *CANTO 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual World*

*Telecommunication Information and Society Day- Essay Competition* under the ITU theme: “*Connecting People with Disabilities: ICT Opportunities for All*”.

Students from the ages of 15 to 17 were invited to write a 600 word essay expressing the requirements, issues, recommendations and the like of the disabled in regards to ICT.

The competition was staged throughout the Caribbean region among participating member countries of CANTO. Entries were judged by panel of experts in the field of telecommunications and education on creativity, organization, mechanics and educational and technical merit. The top three (3) essays (in order of points) were selected and will be awarded the following prizes:

1. 1st place— Trip for 2 plus hotel to CANTO’s 24th Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition in the Bahamas from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008 plus US\$1,000.00
2. 2nd Place: 1 top of the line mobile phone plus US\$500.00
3. 3rd Place: 1 top of the line mobile phone plus US\$250.00
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Place : 1 top of the line mobile phone

The winners were as follows:

First Place: Celeste Augustine, Bishop Anstey High School, Trinidad & Tobago

Second Place: Brandy Moulton, Cayman Brac High school, Cayman Islands

Third Place: Melanie –Anne Holder, Queens College, Barbados

Fourth Place: Jamesa J. Fabien, Portsmouth Secondary School, Dominica

The Essays were of a high standard and CANTO believes that the entrants got a general understanding on the role of ICT in the life of the disabled.



CANTO hosted a Connect the Caribbean forum on the 1st of May 2008 at the Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) held in Trinidad. This was targeted to patrons of TIC as well as invited students of the Bishop Anstey East Secondary School. The forum sought to reintroduce the Connect the Caribbean Initiative, highlighted CANTO's role in the telecommunications sector by introducing members from Laqtel ( Mr. Richard Nixon) Digicel ( Mr. Julian Wilkens) and Mr. Linus Rogers of TSTT as well as highlight the WTISD theme. Mrs. Kiesha Farnum Mohammed, Program manager of the National Center of Persons with disabilities (NCPD) was invited to speak on the role of ICT and the disabled. Ms Mohammed took the opportunity to highlight the significant role that ICT plays in the disabled life and advised the audience that ICT is the way forward for the further development of the disabled. On May the 16th 2008, CANTO attended the Telecommunications Authority Of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT ) seminar on " Connecting Persons with Disabilities: ICT Opportunities for All" where a cheque of US\$3000.00 was presented to the NCPD for the purchase of a **Play Attention Classroom System**. This computer aided system designed to directly help students improve classroom attention, essential cognitive skills, and behavior at the center. CANTO will continue to play an instrumental role in the WTISD and will continue to promote same to all its members



-committed to bringing technology to the children of the Caribbean

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*For further information contact Tricia Balthazar, Service Development Manager at: [tbalthazar@canto.org](mailto:tbalthazar@canto.org), May 16<sup>th</sup> 2008, Trinidad & Tobago*