



Connect the Caribbean (CTC) Status Report **May 2010**

Background CTC

The Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations (CANTO) is the leading trade association in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector in the Caribbean. CANTO is leading the Connect the Caribbean initiative, a public-private partnership initiative which is aligned to the Connect the World project of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and seeks to advance the target of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), to “Connect the Unconnected by 2015”.

Project Initiation

Connect the Caribbean was unveiled at our 24th AGM in January 2008. The objective of CTC is to promote increased connectivity across the region, and the increased adoption rate of ICTs in economic and social endeavors.

The initial focus was on creating awareness of the project and strengthening relationships with other Regional agencies and partners to leverage their work in related projects. In addition to facilitating computers for schools initiatives CANTO also identified some specific project areas it wanted to concentrate on.

CTC Phase 1

INFOCOMM Technologies Ltd. has been retained to revisit the roadmap for the CTC project. The scope of work included proposals for three (3) main projects and the design of detailed action plans and budgets as follows:

1. Regional IXPs (to facilitate regional traffic)
2. Regional eBusiness Facilitation (to enable e-business regionally)
3. Regional Community Content Creation & Youth Uptake

The updated CTC programme was put before the membership at our 26th AGM in January 2010.

The expectation is that these projects will facilitate accelerated adoption of ICTs, thus resulting in increased business opportunities for our members.

CTC Phase 11

Phase II of the CTC project aims to move into execution of those initiatives determined as priority focus areas that specifically CANTO can advance, given the multiplicity of actors in the Regional ICT environment. The areas currently in focus include:

1. Advancement of the Regional e-marketplace:



- a. Regional / International Best Practices Study
 - b. Regional Stakeholder Engagements
 - c. Business Case and Strategy
2. Advancing the issue of tapping the potential of Regional Content:
 - a. Creating a database of Content creation initiatives in the Region
 - b. Creating a community/networks to partner or leverage best practices
 3. Facilitation of the uptake of ICTs at the Community level through projects by one or more CANTO member organizations through facilitation by the Community HUB:
 - a. The signing of an MOU between CANTO and the Community HUB Corporation as a basis for rolling out the Community HUB model to Regional territories through interested CANTO member organizations.
 - b. Facilitation of the launch of a pilot project through partnership with one or more CANTO member organizations.
 4. Support CTU to facilitate the success of a system of Regional IXPs by:
 - a. Conducting research into the process and outcomes of existing Caribbean IXPs (what worked, what did not work and why?);
 - b. Collecting data on:
 - Current location of ISPs' data centres (a map including Internet Landing Points)
 - ISP and ISP subscriber numbers
 - Re-sellers among ISPs
 - Regional Bandwidth Costs
 - Regional Internet traffic patterns/statistics

N.B. The ITU has come forward and expressed an interest in funding some components of the initiative in the 2nd quarter of 2010.

In sum, the E-Business Facilitation Programme will promote online trading and business transactions in Business to Business (B2B) and Business to Citizen (B2C) applications. The initial focus will be on documenting and sharing best practises in e-business applications across the Region. The programme will also include convening stakeholder consultations on the subject, preparing and distributing reports from these consultations as well as providing assistance in strategy formulation and business case development for E-Business projects.

The Content Creation & Youth Uptake Programme will involve creating a database of Content Creation Initiatives across the Region as well as developing business and community networks to facilitate the leveraging of knowledge and best practices. This project has a specific youth element, as they are key stakeholders in the move to use ICTs to improve our economic and social well being.

The Connect the Caribbean Phase II will be discussed at length at the 26th Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition carded for the 11th -14th July 2010 at the World Trade Centre Curaçao.

For more information visit www.canto.org/canto2010 or email tbalthazar@canto.org.