

Media Conference CANTO – Chairman’s Speech

Salutations

- Honorable Minister Jacques Rousseau, Minister of Public Works, Transport & Communication Haiti
- Honorable George Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs, Transportation, and Communication TCI
- Mr. Maarten Boute Chairman of Digicel Haiti and host of this event
- Mr. Carlos Caceres, Chief Executive Officer, Digicel Haiti
- Mr. Jean Marie Guillame, General Director, CONATEL
- Mr. Leon Williams, Vice Chair of CANTO
- Mrs. Helma Etnel, Treasurer of CANTO
- Board of Directors of CANTO
- Mrs. Teresa Wankin, Acting Secretary General of CANTO
- Senior Government Officials and Regulators
- Members of CANTO
- Sponsors and exhibitors
- Members of the media
- Other invited guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

It is indeed an honour and a privilege to be here in Haiti as Chairman of CANTO. It is wonderful to see my company Digicel to be the host of the prestigious CANTO AGM. Digicel Haiti has been a member of CANTO for the past 4 years; we very much appreciate your support in hosting this conference.

I am truly passionate about hosting this CANTO event in Haiti. It’s great that we are finally here after months of preparation. I should mention that there were some persons who were not keen on Haiti’s hosting of the AGM. Indeed some persons cancelled at the last moment after hearing about the recent unrest. As Chairman, my team and I decided to stand firm and come to Haiti. I am a Caribbean person. Don’t let the English accent fool you – I am Caribbean from the Island of Antigua and Barbuda with a Trinidadian wife and relatives from St. Kitts and Nevis. As a Caribbean person I

understand the importance of supporting our brothers and sisters in the neighbouring Islands when the opportunity comes along. Ladies and Gentlemen this is the opportunity to support our Haitian family!

It is also imperative that CANTO holds its events in as many Caribbean countries as possible – we must truly represent the entire Caribbean.

For those of you who may not be familiar with CANTO – we are a regional organisation that represents all the network operators in the region.

In 2015 CANTO focused on achievements. I will mention 3 of them that came in the form of strengthening our working committees, lobbying our stakeholders and focusing on industry led solutions – which is the true spirit of CANTO where competitors come together and work on a common goal for the benefit of the Caribbean region.

- CANTO introduced 2 new working committees:
 - ✓ the vendor/suppliers and
 - ✓ technology trends committees. These committees will place more focus on the needs of our affiliate members and provide all our members with the latest updates on ICT technology developments – we now have a total of 8 working committees
- We successfully lobbied for future mobile services in the UHF Band to go forward to the World Radio Conference. CANTO lobbied a number of Caribbean countries to vote for mobile service for the UHF Band at the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission meeting (CITEL). As a result, Mobile Services in the UHF band went forward to the World Radio Conference as a Multi-Country Proposal
- CANTO encouraged one of our Regulators to accept a voluntary code of practice rather than introducing new regulation in a particular matter. CANTO was involved in an industry led solution with the Regulator which we believe is the way to move forward particularly in the Caribbean. We need more industry led solutions. I want to encourage our Regulatory Committee to focus on and push for more industry led solutions.

This year our theme is: **Inspiring ICT Innovations: Building an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem through Sustainable Strategic Partnerships.**

We are building new partnerships with our stakeholders:

- CANTO signed an MOU with Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean and our CSR committee – working on best practices for handset disposal for the Caribbean region
- We have a Joint initiative with United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean (ECLAC). You will hear more about this from our Disaster Preparedness Committee
- We are also forming partnerships with LACNIC – the Regional Internet Registry for Latin America and the Caribbean and ICANN – the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

In conclusion, we have an exciting agenda lined up for our members and other stakeholders - our working committee meetings start on Monday morning and our session 'The Paradigm Shift – Positioning the Caribbean Telecom Landscape' will be held on Tuesday. Of course, we have our housekeeping matters to take care of at the Annual General Meeting and the elections to the CANTO Board.

I wish to thank first of all the CANTO Secretariat led by Acting Secretary General, Mrs. Teresa Wankin. Thank you also to our gracious host, Digicel Haiti and in particular my friend Gerard Laborde and his team for making this event possible. I would also sincerely like to thank Jon Tipper, Chief Operating Officer, Reconnaissance Group for the security arrangements.

Ladies and Gentlemen I wish all of you a productive and successful CANTO AGM.

Thank you and God Bless

Julian Wilkins
CANTO Chairman