

## Smart Nation, It's the Objective – Gov't Should Lead

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@ 33<sup>rd</sup> Canto Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition

# CANTO 2017 SALUTATIONS (Opening Ceremony)

- The Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda
- All Honourable Government Ministers
- Senior Government Officials from the Region
- Mr. Julian Wilkins, Chairman of CANTO
- CANTO Vice Chairman, Board, and Secretary General
- Chairman, and Board of INDOTEL
- CANTO Members and Specially Invited Guests

(Topic: smart city is objective, government should lead it)

Good evening, **Ladies and gentlemen,**

My name is Charles Che, the VP of Huawei Caribbean Region.

I would like to express a warm welcome to all of you joining us at the 33<sup>rd</sup> CANTO annual Conference and Exhibition today. **It is my pleasure to meet with you all and I**

especially would like to say Thank you to Julian Wilkins, our CANTO Chairman, and Teresa Wankin, CANTO Secretary General, and all your CANTO team for the excellent event. It's my honor to be invited to say a few words on behalf of Huawei Technologies.

In the past few decades, Huawei has been a very successful partner in the telecommunication industry and many Telecom Operators have recognized Huawei as one of best innovative partners for their success. As you may be aware, today the whole world is undergoing Digital Transformation, many governments and Fortune 500 Companies have approached Huawei to see how ICT can help to turn these challenges into opportunities.

The recent development about Smart City has incubated many new ideas and as a matter of fact, many countries are racing with each other to achieve long term sustaining growth for the future. On a global basis, many countries or regions are facing different problems, therefore, different Smart city projects, such as Smart Manufacturing, Smart Education, Smart Transportation, Smart Health and safe city... etc. have been initiated accordingly. And we believe the best priorities for Caribbean Countries to adapt as the initiatives are both "Safe City" and "Smart Tourism".

First of all, being safe is no long a necessity, It is a **must** for your future growth especially in Tourism industry. At the same time, because of the Caribbean's location, culture and resources given, you have all the necessary ingredients for future success. As for the Smart applications, **Government lead and participation** to innovation and new business models is required to attract more stakeholders to get involved will become the key factor of success.

For example, Singapore government has helped to build their "Smart Nation Project" by building a new governance model to facilitate e-Government and other social service to serve and protect their Citizens.

In Dubai, Government is positioned as the prime player in managing the Smart Dubai Project by building the ecosystem, open ICT platform, and financial support for the

program.

AS a government, you should be an enabler of Smart City by having a long term ICT planning of what you want to achieve. You also could be the driving force to use both local and global resources is to build an open platform to host different requirements and to facilitate ecosystem to achieve a win-win-win cooperation to enhance government efficiency, to improve tourism operation and logistics, and to enhance livelihood of your citizens.

In conclusion, we understand in these time finance may be an issue. However, Huawei not only can provide assistance in locating financial support so that you can start your long term ICT planning, we are also your best partner of your Smart City initiative because of our customer Centric Attitude and our proven capabilities in providing an unified OPEN ICT Infrastructure platform, and of course a win-win-win ecosystem to support any business possibilities.

With the exciting vision of smart city in mind, I would like to say thank you again to CANTO for inviting us to be part of this important event, and I invite every honored guest here to visit our booth during this event. I hope you could find Huawei solutions and cases be fruitful to your future success.

Thank you.