







Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D)

The Case for a CARICOM Broadband Policy

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hy Broadband is important to CARICOM

A full-employment economy

- A decent standard of living & quality of life for all citizens
- Elimination of poverty
- Adequate opportunities for young people
- Spatially equitable economic growth within the Community





CONTEXT



- CSM&E
- MDG
- Information or knowledge or Learning Society

Trends:

- Globalisation
- Financial Crisis
- Brain Drain



- ♦ (CARIFORUM EC, EPA)
- CARICOM Canada,
- Aid-for-Trade



Context: National strategy development

Countries: CARICOM

- E-government,
- ICT Education measures,
- Tourism
- ✤Agriculture
- Infrastructure and
- Legislation





Context

- Plan of Action WSISMDG
- Elements of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (CARICOM)

Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing the OECS Economic Union -- signed on 18 June 2010



Context: ICT Trends

- Convergence (Share resources & Interact)
- Flexibility (De-coupling and re-combining)







Context : Defining The Digital Sector **Communications** ICT **Computer and**



Information



Context: Cost of Access

The cheapest broadband prices relative to average national monthly income can be found in Monaco, Macau (China), Liechtenstein, United States and Austria. Customers in 31 countries –industrialized nations – pay only the equivalent of 1 per cent or less of average monthly gross national income (GNI) per capita for an entry-level broadband connection



Regional Strategies which support -

- E-Government Strategy
- Draft Services Strategy
- SME <mark>Work Plan</mark>
- Cultural Industries
- Strategies
- (Draft) Regional Economic Plan
- Regional Digital Development Strategy (RDDS)





E- Government Seven Strategic Initiatives

- 1. Organizational Capacity Development
- 2. eGovernment Framework
- 3. Program Management
- 4. Common ICT Procurement
- 5. Interoperability
- 6. ICT-enabled Service Delivery Channels
- 7. eCommerce Environment





Draft Services Strategy



Health & Human Services

Education

Entertainment & Cultural





SME Work Plan

Strategic Plan and Coordinating Mechanism on SME (In Development)









Statistics

Measuring & Benchmarking

Need to quantify the benefits of ICT (including Broadband)

Work-Plan & Framework (In development)



Draft) Regional Economic Plan









- Macroeconomic Development Policy Framework
- Agriculture
- Agro-tourism
- Niche Manufacturing
- New Export services
- Air & Maritime Transport
- Financial Services
- Human Resources Information System
- Institutional Strengthening, Quality and Standards

Why a Digital Development Strategy?

- Development of CARICOM Information /Knowledge Society
- Key productivity enabler for industry
- New smart services and applications
- Member State focus on existing action plans (e.g. eGovernment)
- Boost Broadband accessibility



Regional Digital Development Strategy



Presented as the "Digital Development Strategy (DDS)".
Seeks to transform Member States to Digital societies and economies.



- Gives a comprehensive overview of the current situation in the Region with respect to:
 - ICT and benefits to be gained by working to achieve global benchmarks for MDGs and development of the Caribbean Information Society.



Developed to show how ICT can embrace key social and economic development



Regional Digital Development Strategy

Made up of six (6) core Strategies

Build a digital Community culture and ICT workforce that can create with, develop and use ICT to improve lifestyle and otherwise add personal and economic value.





Strategy 2/3

Fully establish open telecommunications infrastructures and affordable networks to support and deepen ICT infrastructure using converged and empowering technologies.



Establish a culture of innovation and quality to establish and increase competitive of the ICT industry, and to generate income





Strategy 3/3

 Use ICT for sustainable growth and support social development objectives.
Use the Regional media network effectively to communicate, create and influence the benefits and opportunities of ICT application.





Objectives of the Regional Digital Development Strategy

Fully establish modern regional regulatory and open telecommunications infrastructures with affordable networks using converged technologies, to provide affordable and ubiquitous access.



Build a digital Community culture and increase the value and volume of the regions trained ICT workforce that can create with, develop and use ICT to improve life style and otherwise add personal and economic value.



- Manage and use ICT to demonstrate good governance and increase efficiency in operations.
- Establish a culture of innovation and quality, and to enable sustainable production of Regional digital goods and services, the development of cultural industries and the inclusion of local content in delivery of information.
- Guide businesses and governments to use ICT for sustainable growth and support social development objectives through partnerships that use networked technologies.



Recommendations of the Strategy

- Regional Approach linked to stakeholder interests
 - Stakeholder interests
- Development of a Single ICT space
 - Citizens, consumers and users
 - Media and content sector
 - Telecoms sector
 - Labour market
 - Financial structures and systems
 - Regulatory environment



PHASE 1 - PRIORITIES

Developing the CARICOM Single Information Space

- Business planning
- Legislation , policy and regulatory frameworks
- Capacity Building
- Infrastructure and access
- Diaspora re-engagement
- Functional Cooperation



PHASE 1 - PRIORITIES

2. Measuring and Monitoring the Caribbean Information Society

- Statistics
- Benchmarking
- Monitoring and Evaluation

3. Sectoral Solutions (Regional) -

- Health
- Education
- Agriculture
- Security
- Information Management







PHASE 1 - PRIORITIES

4. Sustaining the Caribbean Information and Knowledge Society

- Financing and Resourcing
 - Concept Paper

Implementation –

- o Universal Service Funds
- o Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Sustainability

o ICT Sustainability Fund.

Is. Governance

- National
- Regional



Role of Governments

- Design policies to ensure robust competition and, as a result maximize consumer welfare, innovation and investment.
- Ensure efficient allocation and management of assets government controls or influences,
 - Reform current universal service mechanisms to support deployment of broadband and voice in high-cost areas; and ensure that low-income citizens can afford broadband;
 - Support efforts to boost adoption and utilization.
 - 3 Reform laws, policies, standards and incentives to maximize the benefits of broadband in sectors government influences.





People-Public- Private Partnerships

Access to broadband is only one part of the picture –



- developing human capacity is absolutely vital,
- All actors national, international, private and public – must work together to these ends.



Opportunities

Bolster existing programmes (OLPF/ OLPC)

Fast-track implementation of existing plans integrated with ICT

ICT-Supply Side

- Information growth
 - Data as an integrated service
 - Geo-spatial information
 - Security
 - Mobile communications



Opportunities

ICT Demand-side

- Broadband enabled applications (sectors) / Internet business solutions
- Education
- ✤Health
- Agriculture

Improved Partner Networks

Examine National / regional models





CARICOM Needs



- Statistics
- Development of robust and flexible regulatory frameworks
 - Co-operation Models for multiple regulators





CARICOM Needs

Funding and Technical Assistance

- Placed in (Economic) Development Context
- Funds mapped to Real /documented Needs
- Must address Access issues as well
- Recognise existing structures and institutions



Next Steps

Regional Broadband Policy Meeting (1-2 December)











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