



CONNECT THE CARIBBEAN (CTC) STATUS REPORT

Connect the Caribbean continues to be one of CANTO's major initiatives in 2011. The project continues to build momentum in the region and internationally. The Secretariat has modelled a plan to fund this initiative through sponsorships and partnerships.

The Secretariat has successfully sourced funding under a cost sharing initiative with the CDE to advance the Connect the Caribbean project. Under the initiative, CANTO will be responsible for 1/3 of the total of the cost of the project, which will include in kind contribution of resources in keeping with CDE instructions. The **CANTO Regional e-marketplace** project will be advanced with the funds.

The following are projects and or initiatives that have been identified under the CTC umbrella. All these projects seek to provide commercial opportunities for CANTO members whilst also driving innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. A copy of the **Major CTC Activities November 2010 to September 2011** is attached as **Annex 1**.

1. ITU Connect the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting

The Secretariat after lobbying the ITU for a separate sub regional launch of Connect the Caribbean had several discussions with the newly appointed BDT Director and the ITU Caribbean Representative, Philip Cross, who indicated that their schedule would not allow for a Connect the Caribbean Launch in 2011 but proposed that the region has a preparatory meeting to prepare for the Connect the Americas Launch which is being scheduled for the 2nd quarter of 2012. The preparatory meeting can be earmarked for September 2011 at a location to be determined.

2. *i-Create* Competition and Business of Content Conference

This inaugural i-Create e-Content competition aims to seek and reward the most creative and innovative e-Content developers in the Caribbean. i-Create will promote creativity and innovation through the showcasing of mobile & web content products that meet domestic, Diaspora and international needs. To date about twenty expressions of interest have been identified.

3. Business of Content Conference

Carded for the 24 -25 March, 2011 will capitalise on i-Create's unique platform and will be a gathering of key professionals, experts and public officials in the digital media, telecommunication, culture and ICT sectors, as well as businessmen and investors in the content trade.

4. Sponsorship

To date the following sponsors have pledged their support: Ericsson, National Information and Communication Technology Company of T&T (i-GovTT), Ministry of Public Administration of T&T, LIME Barbados, University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), TSTT and Illuminat.

Major CTC Activities November 2010 to September 2011

No	Activity	Dates	Resources	Status
1.	Launch of <i>i-Create</i> e-Content Competition and Business of Content Conference	Sept – Soft Launch (Regional) Oct – Trinidad Nov – Bahamas Nov – Barbados Jan 2011 – Suriname Jan 2011 – Dominica	CANTO ICT Ltd Members	Completed Completed Completed Completed 28 th Jan 2011 30 th Jan 2011
2.	Presentation of CTC to Pro Invest Auction Floor	22 – 23 November 2010, Brussels	CANTO /ICT Ltd 6S Consulting	Completed well received
3.	Completing Application and submit to CDE	Nov –Jan 2011	CANTO/ICT Ltd 6S Consulting CTC Steering Committee	Ongoing
4.	CTC Status Report at 27 th AGM	31 st January 2011, Dominica	ICT Ltd ITU Ericsson	CTC Session at AGM
5.	Android Training Sponsored by Ericsson	14-15 February 2011, Trinidad	Ericsson/ UTT ICT Ltd CANTO	Finalizing arrangements with Ericsson
6.	Business of Content Conference	24 -25 Mar 2011, Barbados	CANTO /ICT Ltd	Challenge high cost hotel rooms in Barbados
7.	Competition Closes	31 May 2011	CANTO /ICT Ltd	15-20 persons registered to participate in the competition
8.	Judging period	June 2011	CANTO /ICT Ltd	Rules on i-create site
9.	Announcement	1 July 2011	CANTO /ICT Ltd	Via local regional media
10	Awards Ceremony at CANTO 2011	12/13 July 2011, Suriname	CANTO /ICT Ltd	At Monday night dinner sponsored by Ericsson.
11	ITU Connect The Caribbean Preparatory Meeting	September 2011	ITU/CTU/CANTO CARICOM	To find out if Barbados is still interested
12	ITU Connect the Americas Launch	Between May-June 2012, Panama	ITU For Caribbean: CANTO/ CTU CARICOM	