

January 21, 2015

**BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS IN
THE CARIBBEAN (BIIPAC) PROJECT - (RG-T2212)**
**Beneficiary Countries: Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Belize, Guyana, the
Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Barbados and Haiti**

Brief BIIPAC Project Summary

Introductory message from the BIIPAC Regional Coordinator, Ms. Ayanna Samuels:

Dear All,

It brings me great pride to warmly welcome you to the first BIIPAC Workshop for Component 1, 2 and 3, as required within the Terms of Reference for the project, to be held from January 27-29, 2015 in Paramaribo, Suriname. The agenda for this three-day workshop, wherein each day is dedicated to a different BIIPAC Component, may be found at www.canto.org. The BIIPAC Consultants and I would like to use this three day workshop as an opportunity to:

1. enrich the discourse on the objectives of BIIPAC
2. discuss ways to solve the challenges which exist regarding the realization of the project objectives
3. improve and update the information had by each Component from each beneficiary country to date and finally,
4. discuss the way forward beyond the completion of BIIPAC.

Sincerely Yours,
-Ayanna Samuels
(asamuels@canto.org)

COMPONENT 1 - Broadband Diagnostic And Infrastructure Maps

The main objective of this component is to **develop a broadband diagnosis per country and a series of broadband infrastructure maps for all Caribbean countries**. This consultancy began on January 23, 2014 and will end soon after the Jan 27-29, 2015 BIIPAC workshop in Suriname. The consultant contracted to work on this component is a Mr. Javier Marin. Information needed for the completion of this Component has been received from all countries and separate reports are being prepared for each country.

The scope of BIIPAC's Component I has 2 main parts:

1. digiLAC, the IDB's digital platform that contains all the infrastructure maps plus other relevant information from the IDB Broadband Special Programme
2. the Broadband infrastructure maps reports; one per country.

At this point, all data from the eight BIIPAC Beneficiary countries has been collected, normalized and updated into the digiLAC platform. With regard to the second objective, the reports are at their final stage (native english proof reading phase).

however the information received from Guyana dates back to 2002. It was unfortunately not possible to receive more updated information from Guyana within the time frame of this Component's work.

COMPONENT 2 - Review Of Legal And Regulatory Frameworks And Current Sector Trends.

The main objective of this component is to **identify major obstacles in the regulatory and institutional frameworks and provide legal, operational and organizational recommendations to address them.** This consultancy began on Nov 24, 2014 and will end by approximately Apr 30, 2015. The consultants contracted to work on this component are a Mr. C. Courtney Jackson (for Suriname, Guyana, Belize and Haiti) and Professor Hopeton Dunn (for Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados). The consultants have begun the process of making contact with the BIIPAC Technical and Committee representatives for each beneficiary country and are presently assimilating information needed to complete the deliverables of this component.

COMPONENT 3 - ICT Awareness And Capacity Building Programs.

The objective of this component is **to create awareness and build capacity of a diverse group of audiences, including individuals, business persons and public officials, on how ICTs in general, and broadband services and applications in particular, may contribute to economic growth and social inclusion in the region.**

This component began on Nov 24, 2014 and will end by approximately Apr 30, 2015. The consultants contracted to work on this component are a Mr. Carlton Samuels (for Suriname, Guyana, Belize and Haiti) and Mr. Atiba Phillips (for Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados). The consultants have begun the process of making contact with the BIIPAC Technical and Committee representatives for each beneficiary country and are presently assimilating information needed to complete the deliverables of this component.

COMPONENT 4 - Public Policy Recommendations For The Design Of National Broadband Strategies.

The objective of this component is to **provide public policy recommendations and practical guidelines for governments in the region to accelerate the penetration rate and usage of broadband services among the different stakeholders.** Component 4 is scheduled for commencement after Component 1 ends. CVs have already been received from interested consultants. The procurement process for the consultants who will be contracted to conduct Component 4 is currently underway.