

**PRESS RELEASE
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(2 Pages)

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Belize Tops CANTO's New WTISD - Video Competition!

For the past seven years CANTO has commemorated the annual World Telecommunications Information and Society Day (WTISD) with an essay competition open to students from the countries of its membership. But this year, CANTO wanted to do something different, something more impactful to the wider community which it serves ... and so was born the WTISD-Video Competition.

The Secretary General of CANTO Ms Regenie Fraser stated: "the objectives of the reformed competition included: (1) encouraging the youth to utilize their ICT tools such as mobile phones, tablets, laptops etc. in a positive way (2) educating the general populace about Broadband, its uses and impact (3) Sharing the mission of CANTO through popular outreach mechanisms such as social networks.



William Mahler Junior- Belize

The proud winner of this competition is 18 year old William Mahler Junior, who won with his powerful and well organized video titled: "How Broadband Sustains Me". Mr. Mahler, an IT major at Belize University, was elated when contacted with the news. He told CANTO that he was cautiously optimistic of the results, in terms of the 'People's Choice' which he thought would have negatively impacted his scores. However, he was delighted to have won and was proud to be the first male winner of the WTISD competition, hoping to serve as an inspiration to others. Mr. Williams also expressed his keen interest in Broadband coupled with his love for video graphics and 3D animation which were instrumental in setting him apart.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) spearheaded by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is observed annually on the 17th of May. To commemorate this occasion, CANTO based in Trinidad & Tobago engages in numerous activities including an annual Video competition. This year, CANTO staged the competition under the current ITU theme of: ***"Broadband for Sustainable Development"***.

The competition included participating member countries of CANTO. Entries were judged by a panel of experts in the field of telecommunications on creativity/originality, message content, and technical organization. New this year was the 'People's Choice' vote. Videos were uploaded on Facebook and persons were encouraged to vote via the 'like' button. Videos were ranked according to the number of 'votes/likes received and awarded points which were then factored into the overall respective scores.



The top four (4) videos will be awarded the following prizes:

- 1st Place: trip for 2 plus hotel accommodation to [CANTO's 30th Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition](#) in the Bahamas from the 10th – 14th August, 2014, a tablet plus US\$1,000
- 2nd Place: tablet plus US\$500
- 3rd Place: tablet plus US\$250
- 4th Place: smartphone

The top four places were as follows: **First Place:** William Mahler Jr., University of Belize, Belize; **Second Place:** Gionieva Fraser, St. Joseph Convent, Trinidad & Tobago; **Third Place:** Allison Arnaez, St. Paulus School, Suriname; **Fourth Place** Andrea Gutierrez, St. Andrews Anglican School, Belize.

CANTO congratulates all the entrants and looks forward to the next WTISD Video Competition in 2015. CANTO also thanks all its members for promoting the campaign in their respective countries and the following judges for their time and patience: Julian Wilkins (Digicel Trinidad & Tobago); Vydia Bhagan (TSTT); Elon Parker (LIME Jamaica) Roberto Pansa (TELESUR, Suriname) and Mrs Mary Meighan of Belize Telemedia Ltd.

The Board of Directors and CANTO Secretariat extend a happy World Telecommunication and Information Society Day to its membership.

End

May 16th 2014, Trinidad & Tobago

CANTO is recognized as the leading trade association of the ICT sector for shaping information and communication in the Caribbean. Founded in 1985 as a non-profit association of 8 telephone operating companies, CANTO has now grown to over 110 members in more than 32 countries. A Board of Directors appointed by the membership directs policy of the Association. This strategy is executed by the staff of a permanent Secretariat based in Trinidad and Tobago.