Broadband Infrastructure Inventory and Public Awareness in the Caribbean (BIIPAC) Project

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Accelerating the penetration rate and usage of Broadband services in the region

- Project's Genesis – Nov 2011 Broadband Forum

- Financing Plan – Facility for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods

- CANTO - Executing Agency

- Beneficiary Countries are Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Suriname, Belize, Guyana, Dominican Republic and Haiti

- Project budget – USD 840K in cash |USD 240K of in-kind support

- Start Date – April, 2013

- Project Duration – 30 months

- Procurement Method - Individual Consultants

BIIPAC Objectives

○ Support the design of national broadband strategies in the Caribbean

○ Identify the regional aspects that need to be incorporated into these strategies to support the Caribbean as it evolves towards universality in broadband access and service, regardless of
  ○ the location (ubiquity) or the
  ○ social strata (equity)

○ Better understand the status of Broadband infrastructural layout throughout the Caribbean

Role of BIIPAC Steering Committee

- Ensure the overall coordination and decision making
- Facilitate cooperation among regional and national institutions in the provision of information & data
- Suggest BIIPAC Technical Committee members
- Inform the members' countries and stakeholders on issues
- Approve the work plan and the tentative schedule of meetings
- Analyze, harmonize and approve the national strategies in order to facilitate their future implementation in a regional context.
- Recommend potential technical resources for the project
- Take necessary action to support the activities and the work of the BIIPAC Technical Committee
- 1st f2f meeting was held Jul 14 & 16, 2013 in Aruba
- 2nd f2f meeting was held Aug 13, 2014 in the Bahamas

Role of BIIPAC Technical Committee (TC)

- Coordinate the project activities with other relevant national institutions and agencies;

- Liaise with the Component consultants and act as a link between them and other pertinent national institutions

- Provide all required information to the BIIPAC consultants to enable the completion of their tasks;

- Review and provide inputs on the deliverables submitted in the framework of the project; and

- Keep the SC and the respective authorities informed on the development of the project

- Transmit any observations, concerns and suggestions to ensure the achievement of the project's objectives.

- First f2f meeting was held Aug 12, 2014 in the Bahamas

- Information has been provided for Component 1. They are now in dialogue with the Component 2 and 3 consultants but greater cooperation is needed.

The BIIPAC Project Components

- BIIPAC terms of reference exist at www.canto.org
- The TORs define the activities to be undertaken and the products to be delivered under each component

Broadband Diagnostic and Infrastructure maps	**Review of legal and regulatory frameworks and current sector trends**	**ICT awareness and capacity building programs**	**Public Policy recommendations for the design of national broadband strategies**

Laying of groundwork for increased broadband penetration and usage

Post BIIPAC Implementation Phase

Broadband Diagnosis and Infrastructure Maps

Work commenced on Jan 23, 2014 and will end soon after the BIIPAC workshop

- Detailed broadband diagnosis and infrastructure maps.

- Identification of country-specific socio-demographic variables.

- Classification of geographic areas based on their penetration rates

- Public policy recommendations for each government on how to accelerate the penetration rate and usage of broadband services.

- *Result:* Public Policies, Understanding of Level of intervention necessary, PPPP consolidated, DigiLAC platform enhanced

Broadband Diagnosis and Infrastructure Maps

- The scope of BIIPAC's Component 1 has 2 main parts:
  - digiLAC, the IDB's digital platform which contains all the infrastructure maps plus other relevant information from the IDB Broadband Special Programme
  - Broadband infrastructure maps established 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).
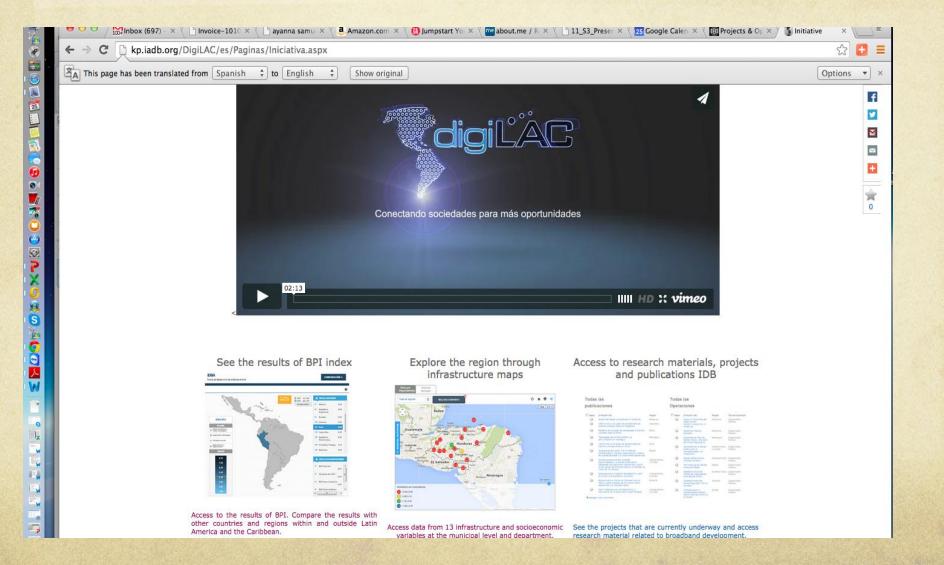
DIGILAC: Presentation of the BPI and other indicators in a dynamic, visual and intuitive platform

1 Complete and updated information for different countries in the region

2 Reference tool in the region for consultation and analysis.

3 Pillars comprising the BPI and other relevant socio-economic indicators.

4 Ability to collate and present comparative map variables.

Platform is... digiLAC

Review of Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks and Current Sector Trends

- Review the current regulatory framework for the telecom sector in each country.

- Proposed revisions to the regulation - level playing field for sector competition in the Region.

- Review the telecoms institutional framework in each country

- *Result:* Harmonized Regulatory framework, leveraging of private sector investment, effective implementation of broadband strategy

Work on Component 2 began in Dec, 2014

Review of Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks and Current Sector Trends

Jamaica, Barbados, the DR and Trinidad & Tobago

Suriname, Belize, Guyana and Haiti

- **General overview**
  - Issues in the Transition to Next Generation Broadband Legal & Regulatory Framework
- **Review of the Current Legal & Regulatory Framework and Market Trends**
  - Transition to Legal and Regulatory Framework for Next Generation Liberalization & Broadband
- **Recommendations and the Way Forward**
  - Recommendations for Regional Coordination, Collaboration and Harmonization
- **Work of Component will build on developments from HIPCAR, etc. to avoid duplication of efforts**

ICT Awareness and Capacity Building for the Caribbean

Work on Component 3 began in Dec, 2014

- Specific sectorial capacity building programmes will be designed for each country, targeted to individuals, business persons and public officials.
  - Impact of ICTs
  - Challenges to full utilization of potential of ICTs

- The requirements and resources needed for the delivery of each programme.

- Capacity building workshop for regulators and policy makers.

- Practitioners will be invited to present international best practices, in an effort to create a *Community of Practice* in the Caribbean.

- *Result:* increased use of and demand for broadband services

ICT Awareness and Capacity Building for the Caribbean

- Identification of the impact of ICTs in each of the target sectors

- Identification of the key challenges and areas for capacity development in order to facilitate and support the full utilization of ICTs in each sector.

- Training & Skills – Identification and compilation of content aimed at equipping each of the target sector stakeholders to deal with their key challenges.

- Country Specific Issues - This section will determine whether the specific resources of capacity building and training are available within each country or whether external resources will be required.

- TC members have been asked to identify Sectors of focus for his/her country
  - Agriculture, SME, Education & Training, m-Banking, Youth Empowerment, Health, Government, etc.

Public Policy Recommendations for the Design of National Broadband Strategies

- Recommendations for the design of national broadband strategies for each government
  - Per sector analysis

- Considerations to work towards a regional broadband strategy

- Recommendations of a governance model per country
  - This is in order to facilitate the future implementation of the national broadband strategies and foster regional cooperation and coordination.

- *Result:* blueprint methodology established for the acceleration of the penetration rate and usage of broadband

This component can only commence upon the completion of component 1. Evaluation of prospective consultants to commence in Feb 2015.

BIIPAC Highlights of Completed Work

- Conducted in-person consultations with stakeholders and consequently revised Scope of work.

- Obtained consensus on the remit of the Steering and Technical Committees.

- Revised project budget to include facility for in-person Steering and Technical Committee Meetings

- Conducted Procurement Methodology revision processes

- Procured consultants for and commenced work on Component 1,2 and 3 in all 8 Beneficiary Countries

- Completed extensive consultant evaluation process for Components 2 and 3 and submitted contracts to the IDB

- Assessed feasibility of extending beneficiary country listing to OECS and Dutch Caribbean countries

BIIPAC Highlights of Completed Work

- Began discussions to ensure seamless transition to implementation of recommendations which will result from BIIPAC.
  - Cost Quest was invited to the Jan 2014 CANTO AGM and fruitful discussions were subsequently had between them, CANTO, the CTU and IDB and an independent consultant, John Thompson.
  - Caribbean Development Bank, and regional banks such as Scotiabank invited to SC

- Cost Quest is keen on assisting BIIPAC in:
  - mapping the requirements and
  - preparing a proposal for the scope of work to present costing figures for deployment of broadband network scenarios

- Jan 27-29, 2015 Workshop planned for Components 1, 2 and 3

- Strong alliances formed:
  - Was invited by the ITU and Indotel to speak at the Regional Connectivity Forum for the Caribbean and Central America, Dec 1, 2014, Bavaro, DR
  - Was invited by the CTU to present at CARCIP SC Meeting on Oct 28, 2014

Expected results of BIIPAC

Broadband diagnosis and infrastructure maps

- Conclusions and policy recommendations for each participating Caribbean country.
- Strengthening of digiLAC database

Review of the regulatory and institutional frameworks

Recommendations to address current sector trends

ICT awareness and capacity building in the Caribbean

- Seminar & a Community of Practice of regulators, public officials &experts
- Design of national capacity building programmes

Public policy recommendations for the design of national broadband strategies

Groundwork laid for establishment of regional broadband strategy

This information will then feed into cost model projections to implement necessary work outlined w/n BIIPAC Project results and policy guidelines

BIIPAC Highlights of Lessons Learned So Far

- Critical to take initiatives to ensure implementation of project recommendations before project completion

- Implementation planning must be underscored by PPPP modus

- Many bureaucratic issues obtain when dealing with Pan-Caribbean projects

- Disconnects can obtain between funders, executing agencies and beneficiary bodies and must be carefully managed

- Focus must be on the entire Caribbean whilst respecting the nuances of each, for pan-Caribbean broadband projects

- Local experts must vet project to ensure it is relevant to domestic realities and attune the TORs accordingly

- **Where there's a will, there is a way**

Thank you!

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