CREATION OF AN ICT ECOSYSTEM

OVERVIEW OF GUYANA

LANCE HINDS, MINISTERIAL ADVISOR, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS
BACKGROUND

- Rich History of ICT
- Potential
- Industry Slowdown (1990s-2000s)
- Lack of Focus/Other priorities
- Re-emergence (2013-Present)
LOCAL ENVIRONMENT / OUR SITUATION

- National and Economic Crossroads
- Need for diversification
- The Need to meet the demands of the 21st Century Environment
LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

• On the cusp of hemispheric giant as a result discoveries in oil and gas
• Facing economic challenges because of over dependency on legacy productive sectors
• It is the technology driven, knowledge management industries that will be the future of Guyana.
• Need to be prepared fully for the demands of a 21st Century environment
STATUS/CHALLENGES

- No ICT legislation currently in effect
- Legislation needs to be modernized
- Education Curriculum need to be updated
- Government and related services are still paper based
- Small ICT Enterprise Level ICT Sector
- Not enough of an advanced ICT skillset
KEY CONCEPTS

• Accept that ICT is critical to the nation’s development and economic advancement.

• Integrate ICT as a key crossing component of any national plan/strategy

• Accept that we live in a world that is flat

• Either we adapt or....
THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Manipulation of information has become the most significant economic and cultural activity.

Used to measure ICT utilization
INFORMATION SOCIETY TARGETS (WSIS)

- Connect villages and establish community access points
- Connect schools and universities
- Connect scientific and research institutions
- Connect libraries, archives, museums,
- Connect Health centres/hospitals
- Connect all local and central govt departments
- Adapt all school curricula to meet the challenges of the information society
- Access to television and radio services
- Encourage the development of content
- Ensure that more than half the world’s inhabitants have personal use of ICT
FOUR PILLARS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH
EDUCATION
WEALTH/PROPERITY
SECURITY
ICT AS A CROSS CUTTING COMPONENT

- Electronic Records
- Connectivity
- Database Management
- Analysis and Statistics
- Easy Access to Educational Content
- Effective Management of School Assets
- Smart Classrooms
- Smart Cities
VISION

• Knowledge based society which is globally competitive and productive, and giving rise to the strategic placement of Guyana as a premier ICT hub in the region.

• Creation of a viable technology private sector that will create wealth, employment, revenue and contribute significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
The creation of an enabling environment that will support

- The effective utilization of ICT by Government to provide services more efficiently to its citizens and businesses.
- The growth of a stand alone ICT private sector that will contribute to the economy in terms of revenue, employment and wealth creation.
- Initiatives that will ensure ICT is an effective cross cutting component of all the productive sectors.
GOALS AND DIRECTION

• The development of an ICT literate society that enables all segments of society to participate fully in the Information Society

• The utilisation of ICTs to encourage and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

• The availability of ICT to all Guyanese

• The Transformation of the public and business sectors into an e-environment

• The implementation of modernised legislation to support industry and innovation
ANATOMY OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY

• Strengthening the legal, regulatory and policy environment
• eGovernment – transforming service delivery and effectiveness
• Universal Access and Connectivity
• E-inclusion
• ICT business facilitation and development
AREAS OF FOCUS

The creation of an enabling environment that will support

• Increased connectivity/infrastructure
• Modernisation of existing legislation/new legislation
• Nationwide wide training/Curriculum Review for ICT
• Entrepreneurship /Startups
• Policy for Business Facilitation
CRITICAL FACTORS

• Buy In
• Champions
• Incorporation within the nationwide development Strategy
• Orientation and Outreach
• Collaboration
• Commitment
WHERE ARE WE?

• Creation of an ICT Specific Agency
• Access via 170 hubs
• Hackathons
• Draft Framework for a national strategy
• Orientation and Outreach
• Increase in ICT Private Sector Firms
• Commitment
KEY NEXT STEPS

• Telecoms Liberalisation
• E-Commerce
• Electronic Payments
• Intellectual Property
• Connectivity Projects
• ICT Stakeholder Roundtables
THANK YOU MOST KINDLY

• Questions?
• Comments?