

Teresa Wankin,
Secretary General, CANTO
Opening Ceremony Remarks
CARILEC SMART GRID TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM
23 October, 2017, Radisson Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad and
Tobago.

- Mr. Surindranath Ramsingh, General Manager, Power Generation Company of Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr. Kelvin Ramsook, General Manager, Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission
- Ms. Jacqueline Look Loy, General Manager, Trinity Power
- Dr. Cletus Bertin, Executive Director, CARILEC.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning everyone!

Electricity and ICT – Power and Information and Communication Technologies Is there a better match?

I am sure that we will all agree that we live in an ICT world – a world where our daily lives and interactions are governed by Information and Communication Technologies – where the instant transfer of information, the ability to always be connected, via seemingly endless communication devices, can be likened to the turning on of a light switch with the guarantee that the room will be lit every time.

With the advances in the ICT sector, where technology has become SMART-er, take a moment to ask yourself how smart can technology be if there was no power. And we all know the impact it creates on our own lives when we receive a notification that we have only 5% charge remaining on any of our devices.

Civilization as we know it today is dependent on the modern power grid for industry, production, human mobility and comfortable living.

As the electricity infrastructure becomes smarter with the advances in technology; the stability and resilience of these powerful networks become heavily dependent on the stability and resilience of the data being channelled through the communications infrastructure.

The resilience of these two networks were put to the test in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria as we tried desperately to contact our friends and families in the disaster ridden islands. The reality of the interdependence between the two networks quickly became apparent when we realized that both networks were needed to communicate with any level of reliability.

It is with this interdependence in mind, that I am pleased to announce that CANTO, the association of ICT companies in the region, has partnered with CARILEC, the association of Electric companies in the region, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding which sets out a framework for cooperation between the two entities to work together to promote the growth and development of the ICT and electric sectors in the region.

Conscious of the fact that energy efficiency and sustainability is heavily dependent on a robust ICT infrastructure, this MoU will explore and facilitate opportunities for the sharing of information and knowledge; Training and Capacity Building and supporting the sustainable energy and ICT goals of the region.

At CANTO, we embody the holistic approach to regional development and we are excited to add this dynamic and important sector to our connections.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Executive Director and the leadership of CARILEC, for their work in the region, ensuring that the electric companies continue to be innovative and benefit from the secretariats leading role in electric utility advocacy, growth and sustainability.

I will also like to thank the organisers of this prestigious event for extending an invitation of attendance and partnership to CANTO. I would like to return this graciousness by inviting you all to the CANTO 34th AGM, to be held from the 4th – 6th February at the Hyatt Regency.

So, in the words of the Honourable Prime Minister Skerrit of Dominica – Caribbean People are Strong, Caribbean People are Resilient - **let us work together to build strong resilient communications network and power grids for the region.**

I urge you all to enjoy this wonderful event, grow your networks, and as we say in local parlance, “do good business over the next four days”. And, for the visitors to Trinidad and Tobago, please take some time to enjoy our lovely island.

Thank you and enjoy the symposium.