

Opening Ceremony Address
32nd Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition
31st July, 2016, Sheraton Puerto Hotel and Casino,
San Juan Puerto Rico.
Teresa Wankin
Secretary General
CANTO

Good Night Everyone!!

It is with a great sense of joy that I welcome you to CANTO 2016 – our edition of “*Inspiring ICT Innovations: Building an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem through Sustainable Strategic Partnerships*”

Wayne Rooney once said “*Perfect Partners do not exist – perfect conditions exist for a limited time*”. I know that the married persons in the room may not agree with Rooney but I can assure you that at CANTO the stars are always aligned to create the perfect platforms for the perfect partnerships – business partnerships that is.

We have chosen a venue that guarantees a successful conference; cutting edge technology showcase and ample networking opportunities amid the culture, cuisine and scenery of Puerto Rico.

Over the next four days, you will experience a program that is rich and varied with two Feature Addresses; Five Keynotes; two Ministerial Panels; three Capacity Building Workshops and over twenty Industry Experts.

The Technology Showcase will feature over fifty exhibits allowing you to touch and explore the latest technologies in the industry.

Our second Annual Hackathon complements the conference and exhibition activities and is designed to select, develop and showcase the talent in the region. This year we are honoured to again partner with **DSS** and **PIEDATA** and bring on board **Genband** with the use of the Kandy Platform. I am telling you ladies and gentlemen, keep following the CANTO Hackathon closely - because very soon the whole world will be talking about a CANTO developed application. Do you know what? – it will be developed right here at CANTO 2016.

A perfect partnership cannot exist without a social program to enhance the activities of the day - and my dear ladies and gentlemen, we have found the perfect partnership with the Puerto Rico Telecommunications Regulatory Board, the Meet Puerto Rico Organization and Rums of Puerto Rico, a division of the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company. So the partnerships started during the day will be continued into the night with the rich flavours of this beautiful island.

CANTO continues to navigate an era where the telecommunications industry is changing with unrelenting force. We continue to see an increase in partnerships and alliances which brings about growth, innovation, disruption and change; presenting both challenges and opportunities for telecommunication companies and services providers in the region.

As an industry association representing both carriers and service providers, our role continues to evolve around the changes in our membership.

As the voice of the industry, CANTO is committed to facilitating dialogue and collaboration between all the stakeholders in the region. We will continue to champion the change that is needed for orderly growth and development in the sector. Through combined vision and influence; we will work together with all stakeholders to form strategic alliances and partnerships in this ever evolving industry.

The success of this conference depends ultimately on the several groups of people who I must mention tonight:

- Firstly, the magnificent CANTO Team who have worked tirelessly in planning and organizing the technology showcase, technical program and supporting social events to provide the only platform in the region that brings all stakeholders together.
- The CANTO members who anxiously await the unveiling of the exhibits and the effective dialogue with industry experts.
- The ICT Ministers who are responsible for policy development and the Regulators who are responsible for a fair and transparent environment.

- The sponsors and exhibitors who anticipates great business leads and are here to stay visible and meet face to face with their customers in the region.
- And the delegates who anticipate great dialogue and networking opportunities.

Together, we are charged with the responsibility for developing the ICT industry in this region; together we are here to sit and dialogue for the good of all the peoples in the region. Let's take these perfect conditions and create the perfect partnerships for taking this region forward.

I want to emphasise that your active participation is of paramount importance to CANTO, we value your business, we want to ensure that we exceed your expectations, so give us your thoughts and work with us to make the CANTO Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition the only place you come to meet all the stakeholders in the region.

I wish you a successful CANTO 2016.

Thank you.