



The Caribbean Community ICT Agenda 2003

Grenada
January 2003

www.caricom.org



CARICOM Context for E-Government:

Securing the **HOW** and... **WHEN!**

Vision of an info-future



CARICOM at a glance

Antigua & Barbuda

- ◆ The Bahamas
- ◆ Barbados
- ◆ Belize
- ◆ Dominica
- ◆ Grenada
- ◆ Guyana
- ◆ Haiti

Jamaica

Montserrat

St. Kitts & Nevis

St. Lucia

St. Vincent & the
Grenadines

◆ Suriname

◆ Trinidad & Tobago

Associates: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Turks &
Caicos Islands and The Cayman Islands

CARICOM ICT Sector Index

- ✦ Telecom Liberalisation:
 - Demonopolisation within/outside WTO
 - legal & regulatory frameworks
- ✦ Penetration
 - fixed lines - 20% - 50%
 - Internet - > 8%
 - mobile - > 13%
- ✦ Ringed by major systems
- ✦ Sector applications include:
 - Education, health, energy, tourism, transnational business, manufacturing, agriculture, E-Commerce, E-government etc.)



New Member Haiti: ICT Sector

Disparate but rich potential, interesting and innovative:

ICT indicators:

- ✦ One national telecom company
- ✦ 2 mobile phone operators (use of mobile more than fixed lines)
- ✦ 10 ISPs
- ✦ 200 private cyber cafés
- ✦ Internet penetration: more than recorded

In the Global setting



CARICOM

Heads of Government ICT commitment 2002

✦ Growing CSME

- ✦ Increasing competitiveness
- ✦ Supporting micro-business

Charter of Civil Society

- ✦ Social gender transformation/cohesion/integration
- ✦ Delivery of public information
- ✦ Minimising “**digital divide**” & building capacity

Heads of Government Commitment Cont'd

- ★ Legal & Regulatory Frameworks
- ★ Development of ICT statistics & performance indicators
- ★ International imperatives & cooperation (e.g. WTO, FTAA, CITELE, UN, ITU, WIPO)
- ★ **Issues of Connectivity**

CARICOM - VISION ICT

AGENDA 2003

- ☀ HOG Agenda 2003 includes:
 - ☀ Infrastructure expansion
 - ☀ Research & Development
 - ☀ Investment in human resources
 - ☀ Entrepreneurial development
 - ☀ Enabling Business sector environment and investment regime
 - ☀ Developing statistical support
 - ☀ Connectivity in CARICOM, the Americas and globally

CARICOM AGENDA 2003

In accordance with hemispheric process:

- Infrastructure, application, content

**Basic
Principles**



Wide participation

Equity

Innovation

**Member States/
Regional activity**



ICT Partnership/Collaboration Potential

- ✦ **Connectivity Issues**
- ✦ **CARICOM (strengthening agenda & capacity building for implementation)**
 - ✦ The Americas, UN, EU-LAC
 - ✦ Investing in human capital
 - ✦ Specialised studies for ICT business expansion
 - ✦ Collaboration with tertiary and policy institutions in ICT programmes
 - ✦ E-Learning
 - ✦ Market expansion through investment partners
- ✦ **E-Government**

ICT Legal & Regulatory Issues

Primary ICT considerations for CARICOM:

- International Imperatives (e.g. WTO, FTAA, ITU, WIPO)
- Treaty of Regional Trade Integration (CSME trade agenda)
- Mainly Common Law jurisdictions
- Good Governance principle
- Universal access & participation
- Business stimulation & investment attraction

Some Legal & Regulatory action - incl. instruments of competition

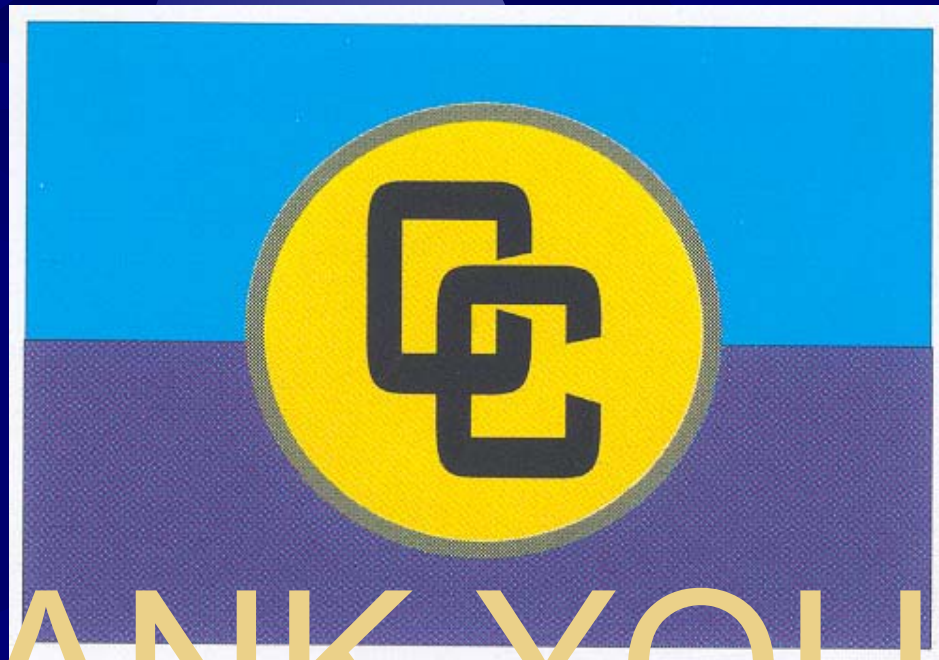
☀ Telecom demonopolisation

- Inside/outside WTO
- Telecom Acts, ETAs, Interconnection
- jurisprudence
- Independent regulation
- Security & issues of privacy
- Fiscal reforms
- New Administrative structures
- Harmonisation
- Appropriate legal training



ICA-Caribbean Discussions

- ✦ The regional approach
- ✦ Continued Telecom liberalisation
- ✦ Strengthened legal & regulatory frameworks
- ✦ Regional interconnection
- ✦ Independent regulation
- ✦ Security
- ✦ Institutional reforms/business drivers
- ✦ Aggressive training/info sharing
- ✦ Stakeholder involvement & sensitisation



THANK YOU!

CARICOM Secretariat

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