THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

CONSULTATIONS FOR NATIONAL ICT PLAN

Trinidad and Tobago has taken note of sentiments, such as those expressed in the UNDP Comprehensive Guidebook to ICT Policy Formulation and e-Strategy Development, which hold that “in order for countries to benefit fully from the information economy, vision, discipline, planning and method are required”. As such, this Administration has sought to develop a National ICT Plan.

- Honourable Fazal Karim – Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education and iGovTT launched a series of consultations on the National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Plan on Wednesday 21st March 2012. Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, Senator, the Honourable Fazal Karim said that the objectives of the ICT Plan are to enable the country to become a knowledge-based society, provide citizens with better access to government services and leverage ICTs in the transformation of the society.

Minister Karim spoke about the “Closing the Digital Gap Initiative”, for which many initiatives will come out of this National ICT Plan and showed many examples of how countries bridged this technology gap. Such as:

- Technology Centers for People with Disabilities
- Internet for All Projects:
- Mobile App Development
  - I eagerly look forward to the day when our Farmers can update a network based information system about their crop’s readiness, or availability and based on the supply available or the demand for it, they can supply ahead of maturity of the crop and ship at the most opportune time.
  - Farmers can also use the internet resources to obtain information such as ways to better develop their crops and learn new farming techniques.
- Culture and Entertainment
  - We should encourage and facilitate the digitization of cultural and historic records to ensure improved quality during storage. This initiative also aims at equipping National Libraries and Archives with the facility to making information on local Culture more easily available to the public through the use of ICTs.
  - Facilitate and support efforts by television and radio stations as well as media houses to develop and utilize local content in their productions and publications; possibly making online access more available. In this regard, we will soon Launch within the next two months the LEARNITT initiative.
- Training and Development
  - which targets, in the first instance, some 10,000 persons for certification many of whom may have never had any form of IT certification before.
  - We will use the Workforce Assessment Centres, launched in May 2011, to guarantee minimum standards of ICT competency for persons entering the work force.

The Ministry is committed to fostering an e-Learning culture as a main target as we shift towards cross-discipline implementation of technology for the advancement and development of people. We must deploy technology in relevant ways to develop a rich pool of globally competitive human resources. We need to be creative, thought-leaders and active doers that use technology as a lever in social and economic transformation. We will soon expound on steps towards greater digital inclusion.”

SCHEDULE FOR THE CONSULTATIONS

TRINIDAD

- THEME 1: A Modern, Competitive New Economy (Pro-Enterprise)
  March 26th, 2012, 8:30am-5:00pm
  Port of Spain Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Trinidad

- THEME 2: Effective Government [eGovernment]
  March 27th, 2012, 8:30am-5:00pm
  Port of Spain Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Trinidad

- THEME 3: Poverty Eradication and Social Justice [Digital Divide]
  April 2nd, 2012, 8:30am-5:00pm
  Petrotrin Point-a-Pierre Club

- THEME 4: A Connected T&T [Accessibility and Use]
  April 3rd, 2012, 8:30am-5:00pm
  Chaguanas Borough Corporation Auditorium

- THEME 5: People-Centred Development [eReady Society]
  April 4th, 2012, 8:30am-5:00pm
  Chaguanas Borough Corporation Auditorium

TOBAGO

- ALL THEMES
  March 28th-29th, 2012, 8:30am-5:00pm
  The Colibri Ballroom, Magdalena Grand Tobago

ONLINE CONSULTATION:

- April 23rd - May 11th, 2012

For more information contact the Consultation Secretariat at 627-5600 Ext 3315 or email: nict.consultations@igovtt.tt