

fastforward

Trinidad and Tobago. Accelerating into the digital future.



Trinidad & Tobago's National Information & Communication Technology Strategy

Daniel Rampaul, Student

With FastForward
the world just got
a little smaller.

Everybody
wins with
FastForward



Global Connectivity.

An Era of Opportunity.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is making our world smaller every day. The worldwide reach of the Internet and advances in telecommunications and computers can now place valuable information, images and knowledge at everyone's fingertips – anytime and anywhere. Access to this level of information and knowledge has never been possible before. Applied wisely and managed effectively, increased connectivity can help in important ways such as education, health, employment, social services, equity and justice. It can increase productivity in every area and shape the future of our children, our people – and our country – to provide us all with new and exciting opportunities.

Seize the Opportunity

The age of the global information society has arrived, and Trinidad and Tobago must position itself for success. We already have a reliable telephone network. Cellular telephone usage has risen dramatically in the last few years to over 450,000 subscribers. Many businesses (87%) use computers. About 16% of homes have computers – about 9% of the population uses the Internet regularly. Computers are being introduced into schools. Our people are entrepreneurial and creative and our size and geographic location give us competitive advantage. Trinidad and Tobago is entering the digital age with some basic strengths. We must do more. We must do it quickly. We must do it with greater determination if we are to reap maximum social and economic benefits and take a prominent position in the online world.

Government working with the public and private sectors, has produced an exciting roadmap that charts a clear and determined course to an online society and a knowledge-based economy. "FastForward" provides far-reaching strategies for the development of a connected country that will adapt, flourish and prosper in the new global information society.

The FastForward Agenda

The Vision of our FastForward Agenda is:

"Trinidad and Tobago is in a prominent position in the global information society through real and lasting improvements in social, economic and cultural development caused by deployment and usage of information and communication technology."

This Agenda will:

- Provide all citizens in our country with affordable Internet access
- Focus on the development of our children, and the skills of adults to ensure a sustainable solution and a vibrant future
- Promote citizen trust, access, and interaction through good governance
- Maximise the potential within all of our citizens, and accelerate innovation, to develop a knowledge-based society

The essence of the country's connectivity agenda is captured in the following values:

connected
committed
competitive
creative
caring
community

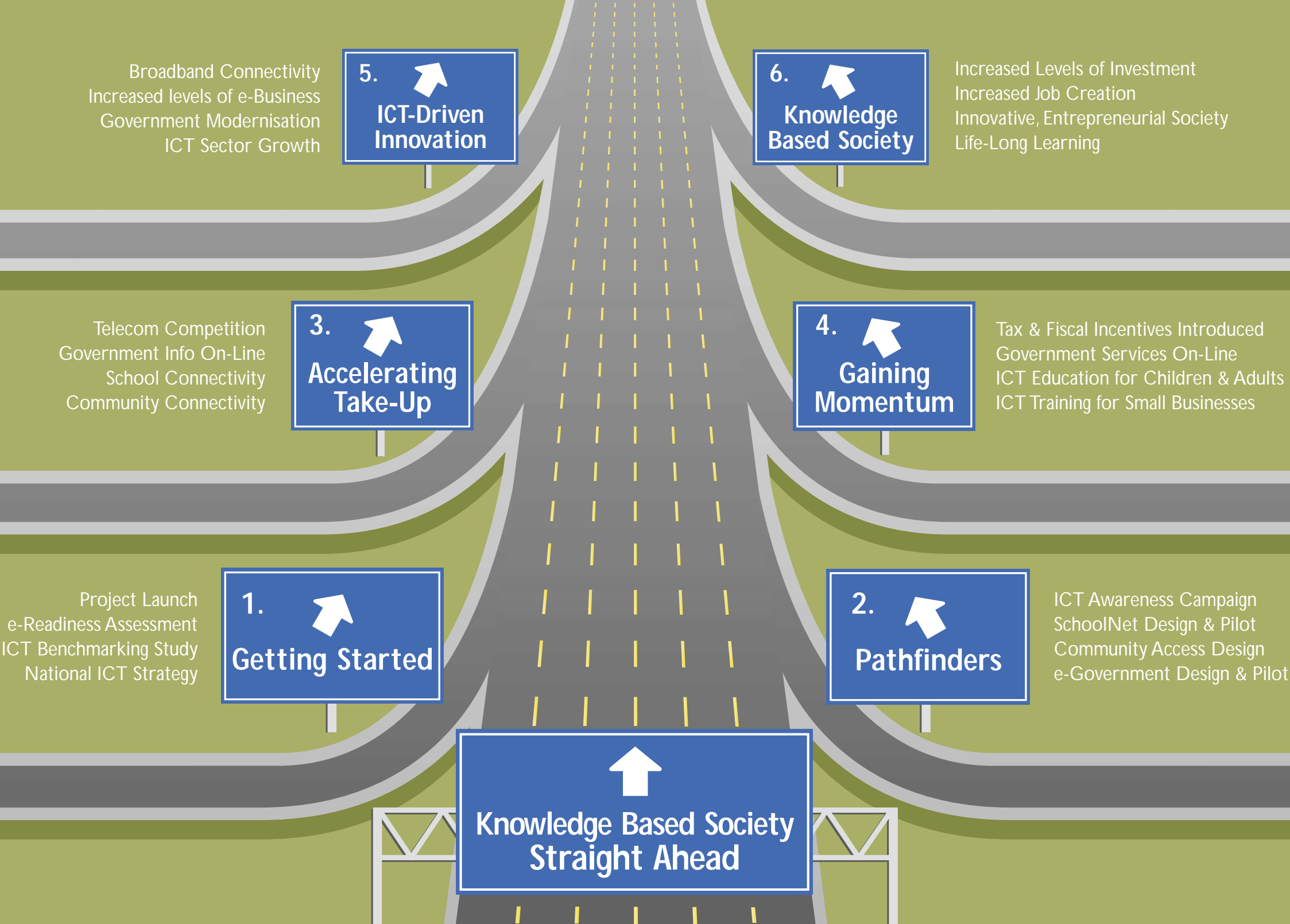
Cris Seecheran, Telecom Executive

With FastForward, I can
work with my international
partners instantaneously

Everybody
wins with
FastForward



FastForward on Trinidad & Tobago's ICT Highway



Highlights of the Plan

"FastForward" is a comprehensive strategy that outlines fourteen programmes and approximately one hundred individual projects that will transform Trinidad & Tobago into a knowledge-based society.

FastForward our Communities

One stop, many services, anywhere, anytime.

We will introduce **Community Access Centres (CACs)** in all areas of the country. These Centres will provide everyone in the community with access to the Internet, at an affordable cost, to a broad range of information and services. CACs will be particularly useful for those members of society who do not have a computer at home. All CAC users will be able to access:

- Information regarding jobs, health, taxes, education etc.;
- Local and community information and services;
- Government information and services such as school registration, unemployment benefits, birth certificates, passport applications etc.;
- Business information and services – especially for start-up and small businesses;
- On-line learning and skills development;
- Information specifically tailored to the needs of children, senior citizens and young mothers; and
- Simplified links to connect with family and friends abroad.

We will **dramatically increase the number of Internet users** by:

- Increasing competition in the telecommunications market to provide consumers with faster, cheaper and better quality telecommunications services; and
- Examining a series of tax and other fiscal incentives to reduce the cost of computer ownership and Internet usage – both for citizens and the business community.

Gary Chung, Entrepreneur

With FastForward I can
provide my customers with
more affordable products.

Everybody
wins with
FastForward



FastForward our Youth

The world at our fingertips.

The Knowledge, Innovation and Development (KID) Programme is a cornerstone of our connectivity agenda. It will focus on the development of children and provide them with the academic skills and technical tools that they need for success in the digital age. It will:

- Provide up-to-date computers and connect all of Trinidad and Tobago's schools to high-speed Internet service;
- Ensure that computers and technology-related education are introduced to children at the earliest possible age – and formalised into the general curriculum;
- Establish a customised training programme to equip educators with the necessary skills for teaching in a high-tech world;
- Use leading edge technology as an aid to in-class learning, to assist with distance learning and as a subject in its own right; and
- Develop an interactive network of innovative schools at a national and international level.

The LibraryNet Programme will provide all libraries with computers and high-speed Internet access. In addition to providing on-line books and e-learning, LibraryNet will also provide users with easy access to valuable historical and cultural information.

The Skills & Knowledge for the Information Era (SKIE) Programme will incorporate a range of initiatives aimed at training and job creation in the adult population. SKIE will:

- Provide a range of technology and Internet training courses for all levels of expertise – from complete novice to advanced user. This training will be made available at Community Access Centres, local businesses and private sector training organisations; and
- Create a network of on-line services and tools aimed at helping employers and job seekers use the Internet for recruitment, career planning, labour information and learning.

Young adults have a special role to play in the execution of the country's connectivity agenda. They understand modern technology and will be at the centre of many of our major training and development programmes. For example, Student Connections will place specially trained students from university and colleges in small businesses or non-profit organisations to assist with the adoption of e-business technologies. Student advisors will be located in every Community Access Centre, working as trainers and facilitators and helping users understand and apply technology and the Internet more effectively. The outcome will be a techno-savvy population.

The Drakes sisters, Students

With FastForward we can
compare our schoolwork with
our cousins in New York.

Everybody
wins with
FastForward



FastForward our Business

The store is always open - safe & secure shopping.

Government and the private sector will explore a number of strategies aimed at **accelerating the e-Economy**, stimulating economic growth, increasing competitiveness and assisting with poverty alleviation:

- A series of initiatives will be launched to provide small businesses with the training, tools and support that they need for successful participation in the global marketplace;
- ICT cluster strategies will be developed;
- Increased levels of connectivity in schools, communities and government will result in growth opportunities for local suppliers of computers, software, Internet, installation and repair services, and training;
- A working group will analyse the feasibility and resulting strategies for the introduction of new business areas such as call centres, software development, data processing, computer assembly and technology parks that will arise from increased electronic interaction; and
- Thousands of new employment opportunities will be created in a wide variety of disciplines – not only technology but also in education, manufacturing, sales, marketing and administration, effectively moving us from being 'e-Users' to 'e-Creators' and 'e-Innovators'.

FastForward our Government Business

All the time.

We will move **Government online** and simplify access and delivery of public services by developing an e-Government Portal. This website will provide citizens, businesses and visitors with a one-stop-shop of government information and services. We will have a special focus on e-Health and e-Justice, and we will develop and execute a broadband strategy.

There are legitimate concerns about the e-Economy – especially in terms of on-line security and privacy. As a matter of urgency, Government will prepare legislation in support of on-line security privacy and data protection; electronic documents and signatures and intellectual property protection. A Code of Practice for Consumer Protection in Electronic Commerce will also be developed.

A National Plan for Everyone

One people, connected, learning and growing.

Trinidad and Tobago's national connectivity agenda has been designed to benefit everyone in the country. It will provide children from the earliest age with new skills, learning and development opportunities. Education will become more interactive, dynamic and group-oriented.

Increased connectivity will bring communities closer together. All citizens will be able to access technology and the Internet in their everyday lives and will have easy and rapid access to information that is important for their social and economic well-being. Families will be able to communicate with loved ones in distant parts of the world, and cultural and historic information will be captured in digital form and made available to everyone, forever.

Young adults will play a pivotal role. They will acquire new skills, share these skills with others in the community and prepare themselves for an exciting future in the information era.

The private sector will play a critical role in growing the ICT sector and in ensuring its sustainability. Public sector/private sector ICT initiatives will flourish.

FastForward will kick-start the e-Economy. New skills, ideas and access to new sources of information and global markets will be generated. This will provide additional enterprise and innovation. Additional enterprise and innovation will result in local employment opportunities that will require new skills and ideas. The cycle will have been completed – and a knowledge-based society created.

Technology is advancing at ever increasing speed, and we must always be planning for the future. Advisory panels, such as an Infrastructure Taskforce and an e-Business Roundtable will be established. These specialist bodies will help the country increase levels of innovation and entrepreneurship and ensure there is always a "future-oriented" infrastructure platform under development.

FastForward 2008

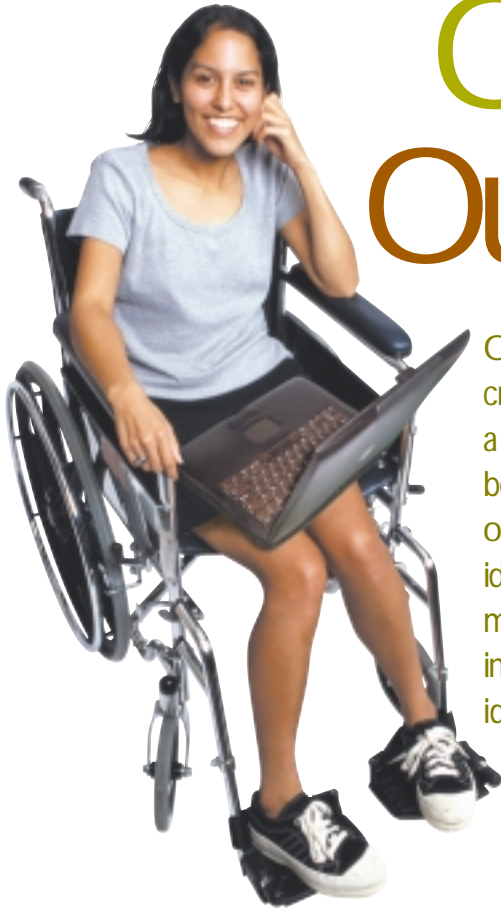
A Knowledge-Based Society is born.

Speed is of the essence but we must also move forward in a collaborative and coordinated fashion if we are to be completely successful. Implementation timelines are aggressive and reflect the importance and urgency placed behind this initiative:

The Road to a Knowledge-Based Society



- 2005 Telecommunications sector opened up to full competition
- 2006 All appropriate government information available online
- 2008 All schools with up-to-date computers and high-speed Internet access
- 2008 All libraries with up-to-date computers and high-speed internet access
- 2008 Community connection programme completed
- 2008 All appropriate government services online
- 2008 Over 50% of homes will have computers and internet access
- 2008 Over 50% of the population are regular internet users
- 2008 Over 50% of businesses online and seeing business benefits



Our Plan Our Future

Over 250 people were involved in crafting **FastForward**. It is truly a national plan with roles and benefits for everyone in every part of our country. As we move from ideas to action, it is important that more and more people become involved. We need your input, your ideas and your active involvement.

Contact us at: telephone: 800-nict
email: mpai@tstt.net.tt
online: www.fastforward.tt

Let us **FastForward** together!

fastforward

Trinidad and Tobago. Accelerating into the digital future.