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

Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education during the Trinidad kick-off session for the National ICT Plan Consultations at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad.

The Hon Fazal Karim, Minister, Science, Technology and Tertiary Education (centre) with representatives of the Ministry, iGovTT and IDA-International at the Kick-Off of the National ICT Plan Consultations. From left: Han Yong Seah, T&T Programme Director, IDA-International; Shiraz Mohammed, ICT Advisor, Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education; Larry Howai, Chairman, eBusiness Roundtable; Minister Karim; Atiba Phillips; Chairman, iGovTT; Jaggernauth Soom, Permanent Secretary (Ag) Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education; Emily Teo, Programme Consultant, IDA-International.

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 Usage)**
  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

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:**
  - Internet/Wireless Parks, Wireless spaces in Malls, in Schools, in Churches, in Hospitals and other public facilities. Basically anywhere people congregate.

- *Mobile App Development*
  - I eagerly look forward to the day when our Farmers can update a network based information system about their crops' 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 LEARNTT 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."

WHY CONSULT?

The Consultations are designed to gather feedback on the draft National ICT Plan with regard to relevance, scope, key initiatives, related programmes, lead agencies and execution timeline. *Every citizen has the opportunity to contribute to the finalizing of this Plan which will guide the development of Trinidad and Tobago through the use of ICT.* At the end of the Consultations, all our voices, perspectives, insights and solutions will be consolidated toward defining the future of Trinidad and Tobago.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

The Consultations will be held throughout Trinidad and Tobago during March and April and via the Internet in April and May. The Draft National ICT Plan can be accessed at *www.igovtt.tt*. Please note however that, comments will not be taken online until the actual start of online consultations on 23rd April 2012. Persons wishing to attend the consultations may indicate their interest via email at *nict.consultations@igovtt.tt* up to March 30th, 2012 or by calling 868-627-5600 Ext. 3315. You may keep up with us via Twitter@igovtt.

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STTE The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education
"Providing a World of Opportunity"

eBusiness ROUNDTABLE

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