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International Telecommunication Union
Telecommunication Development Bureau

CARICOM SECRETARIAT

Project Budget Number:	
Project Title:	**Development of a Regional ICT Space for CARICOM countries**
Start Date:	January 2013
Estimated End Date:	January 2018
Government Coop. Agency:	Ministries of ICT, Telecommunications Regulatory bodies, Telecommunications Providers
Implementing agencies:	CARICOM Regional organisations, Governments, NGOS
Executing Agency:	CARICOM Secretariat
Project Site:	CARICOM Countries
Beneficiary Country:	CARICOM Countries
ITU Project Manager:	

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

A) Project Budget

Description	US $38,500,000.00
Project Personnel	
Equipment	
Training of Trainers	
Fellowships	
Monitoring & Evaluation	
Miscellaneous	
ITU Admin Support Cost	
Total:	

B) Cost Sharing

<partner >	<value>
ITU	<value>

Participating countries Contribution (in kind)

- Trainers
- Training Room / Business Centre
- Communication Facilities
- Infrastructure

Brief Description:

This project aims at developing, managing and maintaining the CARICOM Region as a single ***ICT space***

On Behalf of	Signature	Date	Name/Title
ITU:	_____	_____	_____ Director of BDT
	_____	_____	_____

Background & Context

Over the past ten years – the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has worked on developing several strategies – both nationally and regionally - all aimed at improving the quality of life for its citizens. Most recent amongst these, is the Regional Digital Development Strategy which was approved in 2010. The Broad Strategic Objectives of the Strategy are:

1. To fully establish modern regional regulatory and open telecommunications infrastructures with affordable networks using converged technologies, to provide affordable and ubiquitous access.
2. To build a digital Community culture and increase the value and volume of the Region's trained ICT workforce that can create with, develop and use ICT to improve life style and otherwise add personal and economic value.
3. To manage and use ICT to demonstrate good governance and increase efficiency in operations
4. To establish a culture of innovation and quality, and to enable sustainable production of Regional digital goods and services, the development of cultural industries and the inclusion of local content in delivery of information.
5. To guide businesses and governments to use ICT for sustainable growth and support social development objectives through partnerships that use networked technologies.

One key recommendation in the Strategy speaks to the Development/creation of a single CARICOM ICT space. This Single ICT space would be characterised by consistent rules, harmonised policy environment, trained/informed Citizens and consumers and the development of rich content by the Region to be shared electronically. The main benefits of this Single ICT space would be to use the existing economies of scale to the Region's advantage, consistent rules across the Region, a single numbering plan, Common spectrum space and providing motes opportunities for research and innovation.

Strategy

Overall Project Objective(s) –

- Developing an open & competitive CARICOM Business Market
- Stimulating growth in the ICT sector
- Boosting competitiveness across the economy
- Promoting opportunities for research and innovation

Outputs

- Policies developed and implemented (Including): fighting Spam and Cybercrime; Protecting Privacy, Data Protection, Audiovisual, facilitating cross border transmission via satellite and cable, copyright, Information and knowledge society, Broadband, digital rights management, ICT procurement
- New regulation for Mobile Roaming Charges instituted: to limit the costs of mobile calls abroad;
- Radio Spectrum policy developed that manages the use of radio spectrum, through which all wireless communications - and much else besides - travel;
- A single emergency number for CARICOM established.
- Strategies and polices developed related to Number portability
- the use of Digital Rights Management technologies supported
- Web Accessibility standardised and increased: everyone must be able to access websites, regardless of any physical disabilities.
- Information storage and sharing increased at regional level using outsourcing technologies and model
- A single CARICOM Copyright and Trademark developed
- Exchange / research program instituted with the European Union (information exchange, technology transfer, etc) since the EU is working on developing a Single ICT space as well.

Activities

1. Developing strategies and polices (including public relations) to attract new entrants to the business and ICT markets;

2. Developing policies (Including): fighting Spam and Cybercrime; Protecting Privacy, Data Protection, Audiovisual, facilitating cross border transmission via satellite and cable, copyright, Information and knowledge society, Broadband, digital rights management, ICT procurement;
3. Collectively negotiating with providers to Establish a single mobile numbering plan for the region, remove mobile roaming charges (to allow cheaper communications), and remove mobile termination for data and voice and build a single broadband market;
4. Creating a common regional spectrum space with equitable sharing of resources and Income;
5. Activities towards the development /establishment of a CARICOM Copyright and Trademark;
6. Develop and implement strategies to reduce cost of access to useful technologies. (For example, for sale of goods and services, - leverage regional purchase of ICT consumer equipment for training; phones to be allowed into region; better landing prices for cable and termination fees);
7. Benchmarking regional 'standards' – E.g. Minimum Acceptable Bandwidth (for Government, Business, Consumer);
8. Developing and adopting a Regional Cooperation Model for ICT Agencies and partners
9. Exchange / research program instituted with the European Union (information exchange, technology transfer, etc) since the EU is working on developing a Single ICT space as well.

Risks

Limited 'buy-in' and support from primary partners (telecommunications providers, regulators).
Timely implementation affected if policy approval process is lengthy
Insufficient project resources to ensure successful completion of all aspects of the project

Management

The overall management of the project will be done by the CARICOM Secretariat. The Secretariat will act as the Executing Agency. Implementing agencies will include CARICOM Regional organisations.
A Project Management committee will have oversight of the Project activities. The Committee through the Secretariat will present periodic reports to the Prime Minister of Grenada, who has Lead responsibility for Science & Technology (incl. ICT) in the CARICOM Quasi-cabinet.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The progress of the project will be monitored through periodic evaluation reports issued by the project and an evaluation report will be prepared at the end of specific deliverables in the project. Special reports may be required from some of the sites. Field visits will be arranged to those learning centres that may require a direct evaluation of their progress and the adherence to the project standards.

Budget

The estimated budget is US$38,500,000.00 (thirty eight million five hundred thousand United States dollars)

Activity	Comments	Estimated Budget
Deepen markets for new entrants, and enhanc competition		5,000,000.00
Spectrum Management Strategy		1,000,000.00
Negotiations with Telecoms providers		*5,000,000.00*
Modernise / Develop Legal and Regulatory framework including audio-visual services		*5,000,000.00*
Promote interoperability, particularly in digital rights management		3,000,000.00
Development of CARICOM Copyright and requisit agency to administer		3,000,000.00
Common approach to information to Citizens, consumers and users and EContent Development		10,000,000.00
Further develop Information and Knowledge Society Strategies, including Regional cooperation Model		500,000
Information storage and sharing at regional level usir		3,000,000.00

Activity	Comments	Estimated Budget
outsourcing technologies and model		
Exchange / research program with EU		3,000,000.00