



**ITU Americas Region WTSA-2008**  
**Preparatory Meeting**  
Brasilia, 21-22 May 2008

**ITU for Americas**  
**Connect The Caribbean (CTC)**

**Regenie F. Ch. Fräser**  
**Secretary General CANTO**  
Caribbean Association of National  
Telecommunication Organizations

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# Introduction to CANTO

- CANTO was founded in 1985 by 9 regional operators as a nonprofit association of national telephone operating companies in the Caribbean
- Today, CANTO is recognized internationally as a major trade association in the telecommunications sector
- Membership stands at 119 and includes:
  - 43 active members - Regional Operating Companies
  - 76 affiliate members – Equipment suppliers & other support services

# Introduction to CANTO

## ■ Our Mission:

- To facilitate the provision of innovative information and communication for the region's economic and cultural development, as well as for the benefit of our members – through the sharing of knowledge and expertise and through coordination of strategic standpoints and policymaking

## ■ Strategic Objective:

- Increase our visibility and authority regionally and globally through leveraging our position and skills in connecting the efforts of regional stakeholders to work together to connect the unconnected by 2015.

■ This approach supports WSIS Connectivity Agenda

# Connect The Caribbean Initiative

Connect the Caribbean (CTC) is the Caribbean's response to the Connect the World goals of the ITU

- Consistent with the framework of Connect the World, the project is built around three pillars;
  - Infrastructure development
  - Enabling a harmonized policy framework
  - Developing relevant and affordable services and applications
- CTC was initiated and is sponsored by CANTO's Board
- CANTO is partnering with key public and private sector stakeholders (CTU, ITU, CARICOM Secretariat, UWI & Governments) to mobilize the human, financial and technical resources required for the success of this initiative

# Connect The Caribbean Initiative

- The first face to face meeting was held in Paramaribo, Suriname over two days, January 30 and 31, 2008
- Over 60 participants, including our members, partner organizations, equipment suppliers & members of civil society were in attendance
- The objective of the meeting was to bring together regional stakeholders and other persons of like mind to begin the process to develop a workable framework towards achieving the goal set by the WSIS, to “Connect the Unconnected by 2015”

# Draft CTC Framework

- Three key principles that should underpin a Connected Caribbean were articulated:
  - A Shared vision for Caribbean development and the advancement of the region's people
  - A Connected Caribbean is one in which its People, Institutions and Systems are connected through the strengthening of
    - physiological ties (local content, cultural)
    - economic ties (trade, industry, commerce)
    - knowledge sharing (education, experience, research, expert networking)
  - A Connected Caribbean implies pervasive affordable broadband internet connectivity and the application of ICT to :
    - social service delivery
    - regional security
    - national & regional information resources (e.g. national archives )

# Draft CTC Framework

- A comprehensive list of key enablers were also identified
- Definitions for a number of key parameters were articulated
- These include such issues as:
  - A definition of the Caribbean for purposes of the project
  - A proposed institutional framework
  - Projected outcomes of CTC
  - Suggested parameters for measuring some outcomes

# Sharing the CTC Framework

- To date the framework has been shared at a number of forum:
  - CTU Ministerial Strategic Seminar, Feb. 28 & 29 in Bermuda
  - Joint ITU/CITEL Forum on ICT in the Americas, April 21, 2008, Washington
  - CARICOM's ICT Steering Committee, May 14, in Georgetown, Guyana
  - ITU Regional Development Forum 19-20 May, in Brasilia.
  - The next series of face to face meetings will take place from 13-16 July 2008, during our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition in The Bahamas

# CTC Projects Database

## ■ Comprehensive database on regional ICT projects

- There are over 300 entries in the database, based on information gleaned from a survey of members countries plus information from secondary research
- The database is hosted on CANTO's portal, and will soon be available to the public
- There are plans to expand the database through continuous and systematic updating and developing a facility to allow searching capabilities
- This will be part of the infrastructure to allow sharing of information and best practices in ICT development regionally

# CTC Projects To Date

- Connect Barbados project launched in June 2007.
- A One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project was launched at the 24th AGM of CANTO Suriname - February 2008
- This project is sponsored by TELESUR in partnership with NORTEL
- 200 laptops are donated to schools in Suriname by TELESUR
- A second One Laptop Per Child project is scheduled to be launched in The Bahamas in July 2008: BTC – NORTEL collaboration
- Other negotiations are underway with Belize Telemedia LTD, the Dutch Antilles and NTRC St. Vincent and the Grenadines (ECTEL)
- CANTO is in negotiation with NORTEL to act as its purchasing agent for OLPC in the Caribbean

# CTC Next Steps

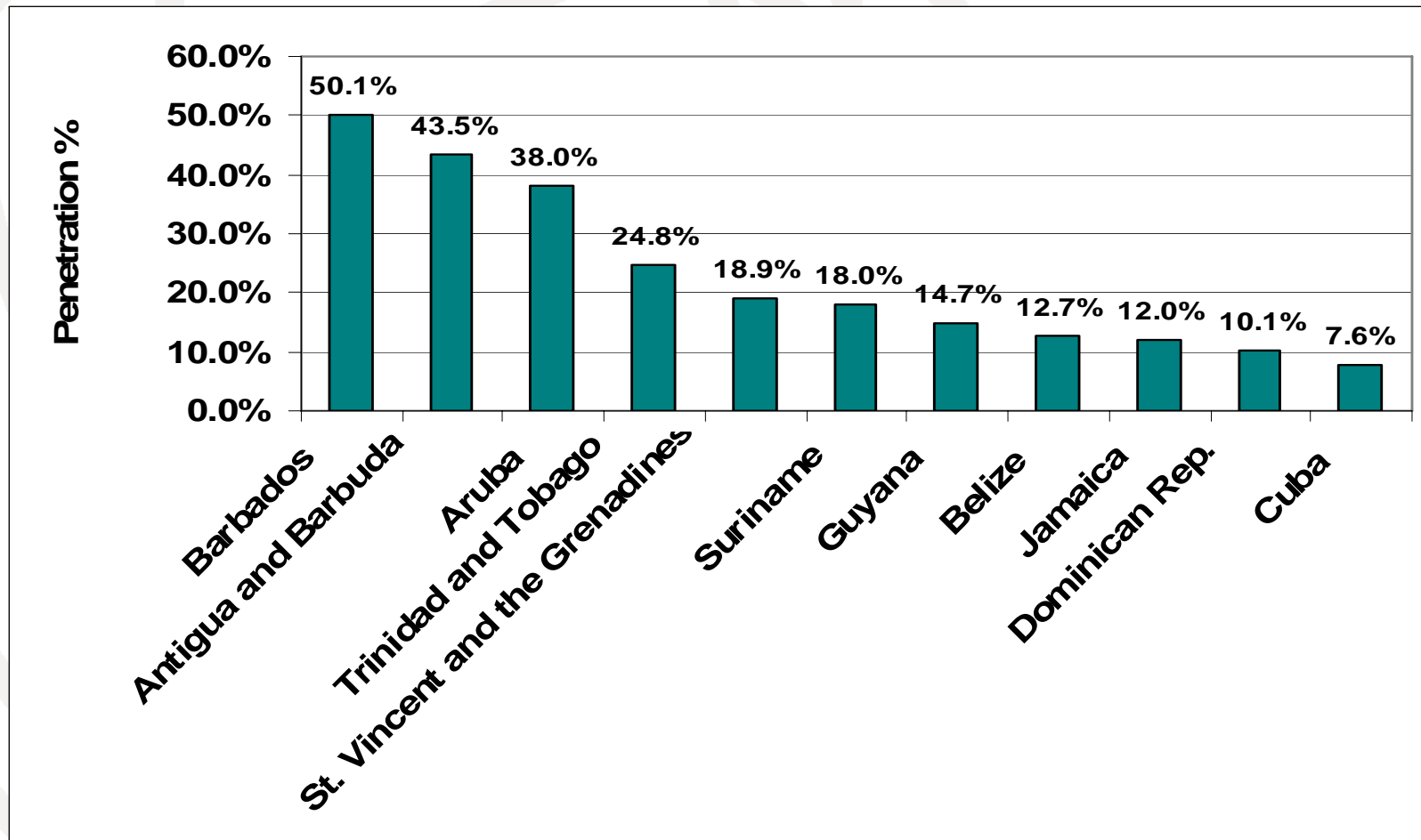
- CANTO will take the process forward through:
  - Soliciting the input from regional ministers with responsibility for ICT issues.
  - Soliciting input from CEOs of regional telecoms companies and other stakeholders.
  - Showcasing of a regional ICT projects that have had a demonstrable beneficial impact on a community
  - Launching the CTC webpage with information on the project
  - A feature of the website will be the CTC projects database
  - Highlighting specific project initiatives such as the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) Project
  - Highlighting the importance of the work of ITU-T for the success of CTC
  - Started at WTISD 17 May: Regional Essay Competition, CTC Forum and TATT Forum on Connecting Persons with Disabilities: ICT Opportunities or all

# ICT Measurements / Indicators

- In bridging the digital divide or connecting the unconnected, the development of public policy is a key component
- Measurement or the development of reliable ICT indicators are needed to inform public policy
- As part of CTC, CANTO has commenced a drive to collect reliable ICT indicators for the region
- As far as possible we are using indicators already available from agencies such as ITU, CTU, CITELE, CARICOM etc.

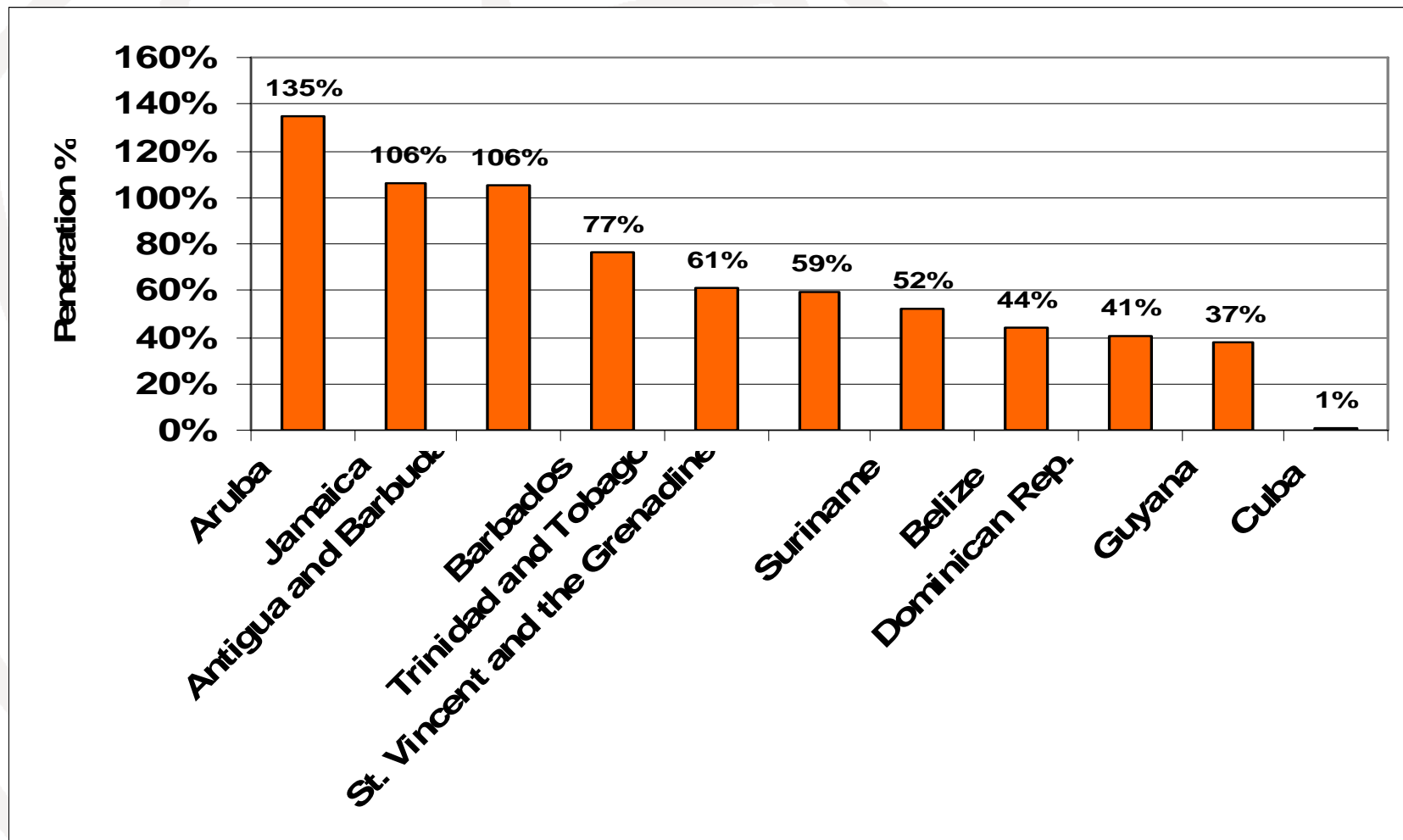
# Synopsis of regional ICT Indicators

## ■ Fixed Line Penetration - ITU 2006



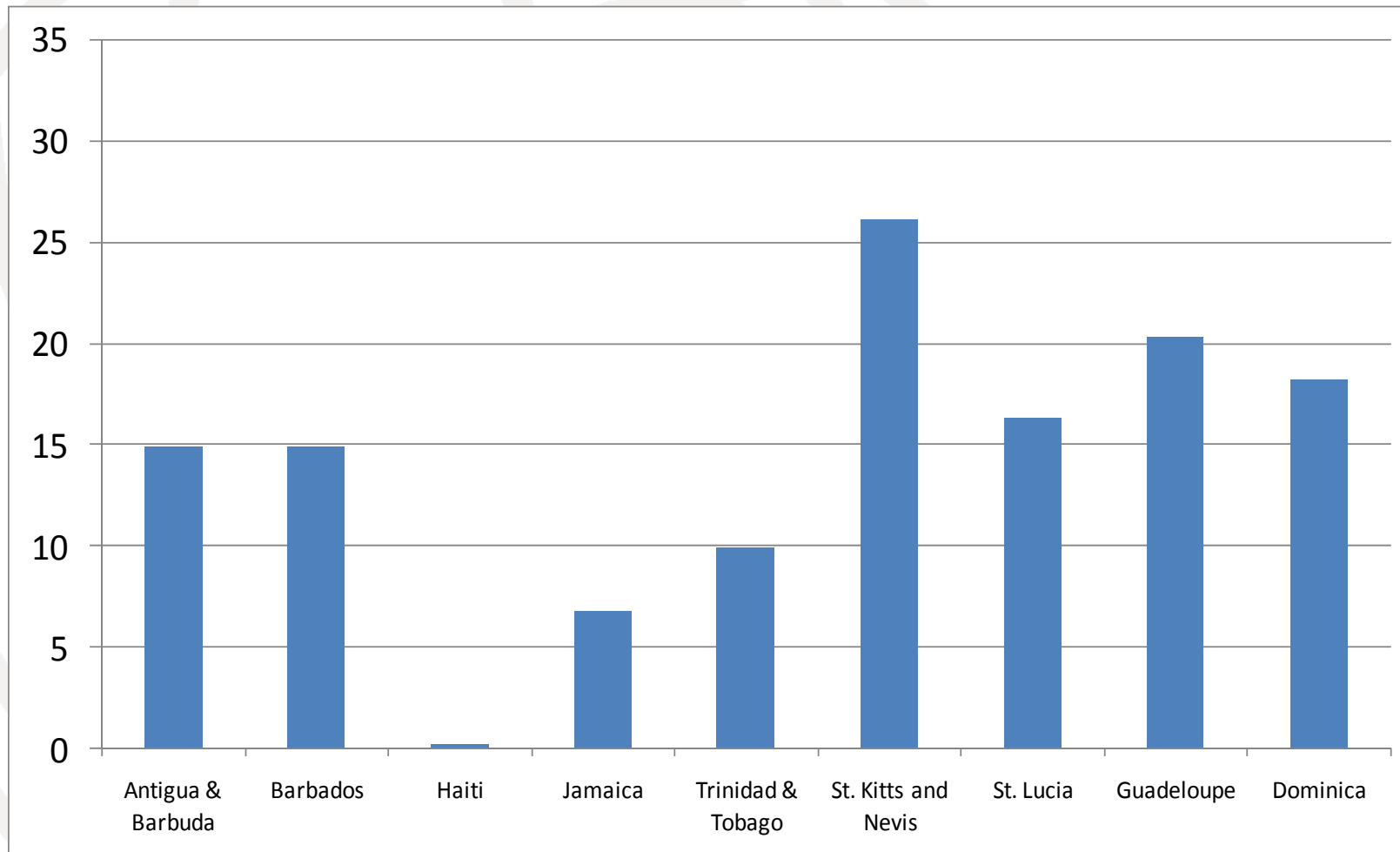
# Synopsis of regional ICT Indicators

## ■ Mobile Penetration - ITU 2006



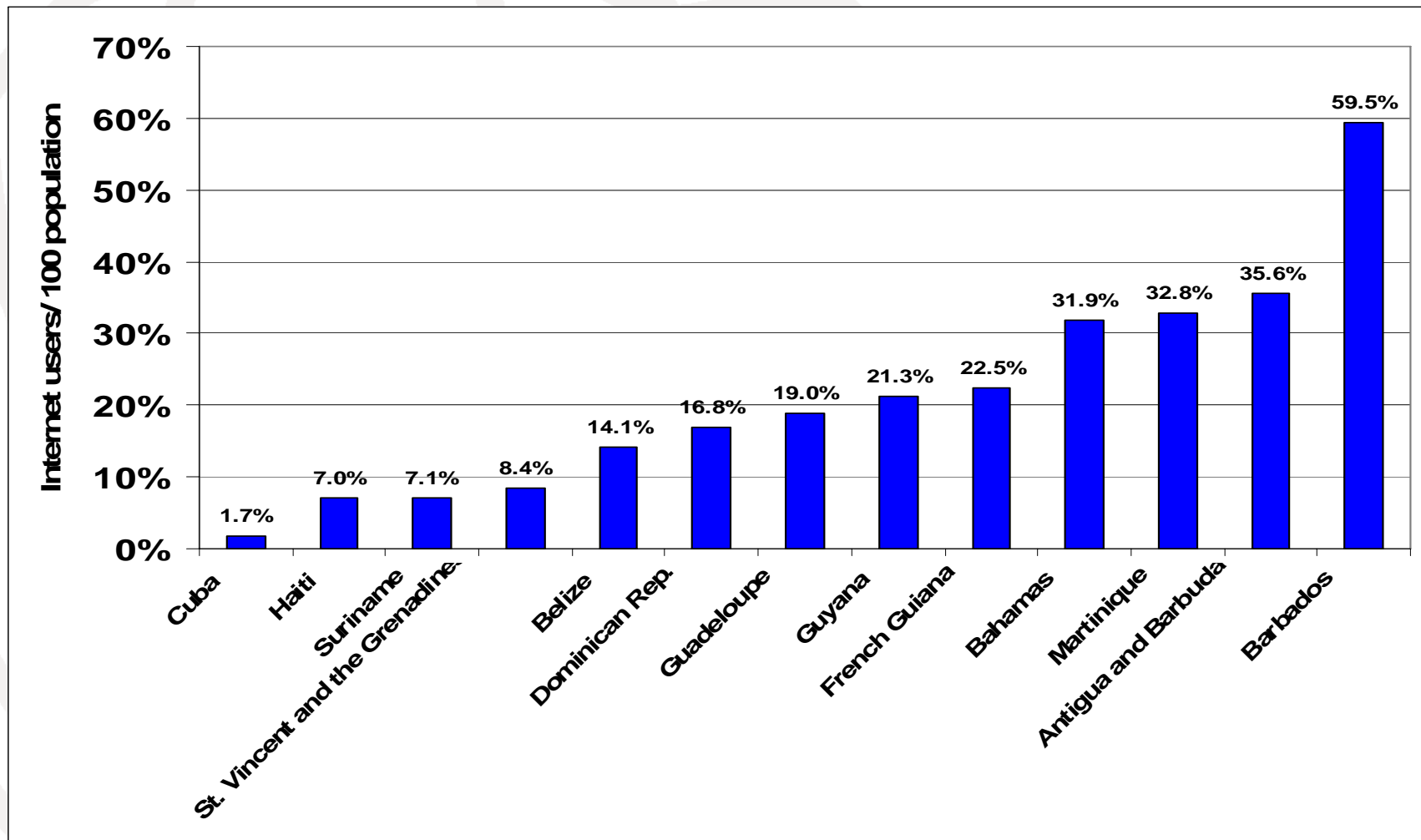
# Synopsis of regional ICT Indicators

## ■ Computer Per 100 Inhabitants ITU 2006 Est.



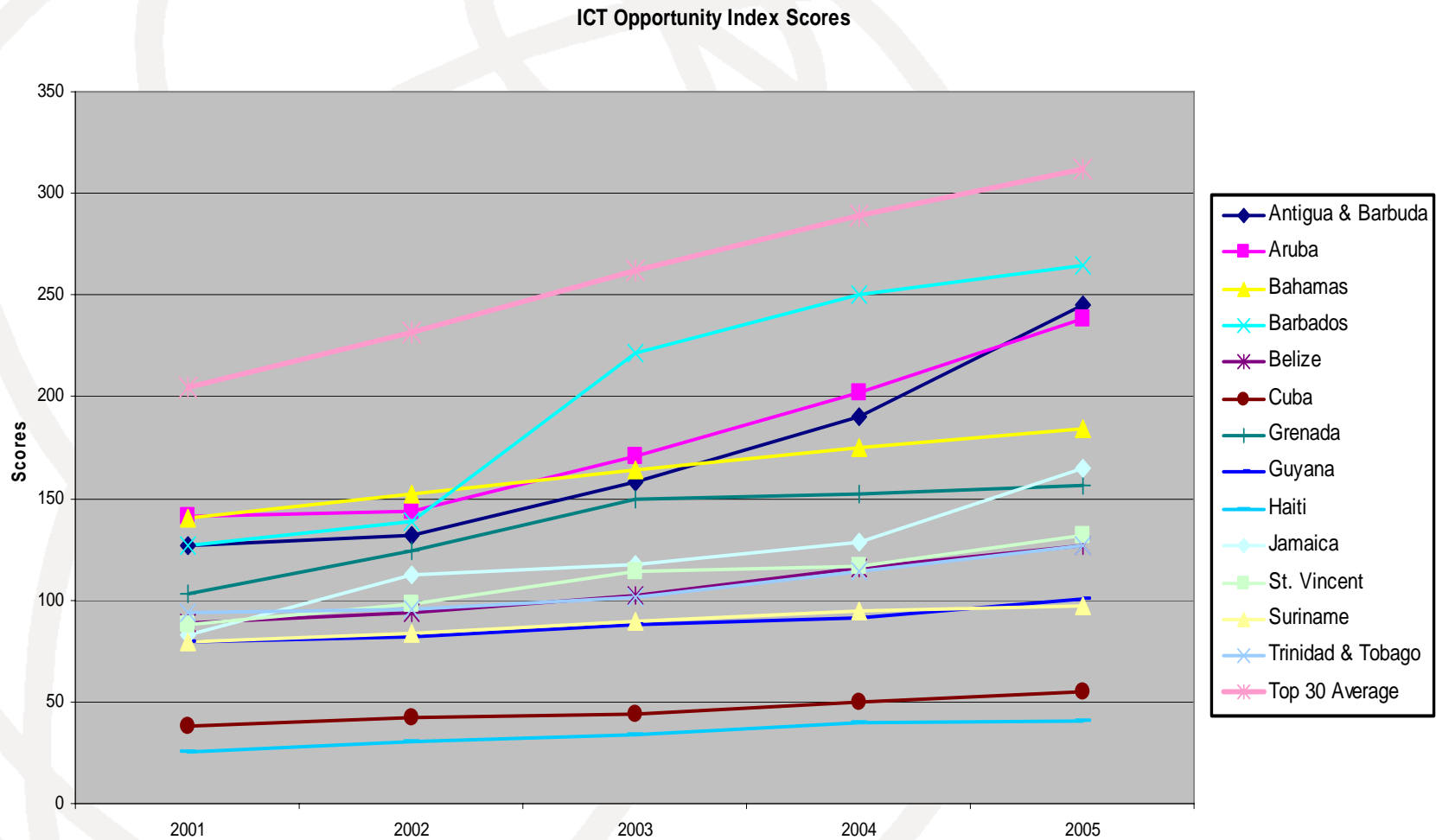
# Synopsis of regional ICT Indicators

## ■ Internet Users Per 100 Population ITU 2006 Est.



# Synopsis of regional ICT Indicators

## ■ ICT Opportunity Index Scores



# Challenges in Measuring Outcomes

- As we seek to effectively measure the outcomes of CTC and like initiatives we recognize the challenges
  - Reliance on indicators developed for more mature markets
  - Currency of available data
  - Unavailability of indicators relating to the demand side (service demand & usage patterns)
  - Lack of information on methodologies used to develop indicators
  - The comparability across countries

# Challenges in Measuring Outcomes

- This was recognized by WSIS in 2003
- One of the issues approved was:  
“All countries and regions should develop tools so as to provide statistical information on the Information Society, with basic indicators and analysis of its key dimensions. Priority should be given to setting up coherent and internationally comparable indicator systems, taking into account different levels of development”.

# Bridging the Gap

- Highlight work taking place at ITU in this area & encourage regional governments and other bodies to take an active interest
- Identify related work that is taking place in the region
- For example, Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC) has been doing some work in this area

# Bridging the Gap

- Create and use working methods that employ the use of the technology in sharing information and learning
- Build the skills and capabilities regionally

# CANTO's Commitment (1)

- Sensitize our members to the importance of this issue
- Encourage countries in the region to collect relevant data as part of their information gathering processes for national census
- Collect information on both the supply and demand of ICT to inform the development of regional ICT indicators
- Seek funding for pilot projects to define and document appropriate methodologies
- Act as a repository for reliable ICT indicators

## **CANTO's Commitments (2)**

- Stress the importance of ITU-T work in the Caribbean
- Establish link with Connect The Caribbean (CTC) Project
- Develop a draft proposal for WTSA
- Confirm an audience and speaking slot for ITU-T representatives to address the 700+ delegates at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition of CANTO, 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> July in the Atlantis Paradise Island Hotel, Bahamas. Dr. Hamadoun Toure is the confirmed Keynote speaker of the event.

# The End

## Thank you for your attention

#67 PICTON STREET  
NEWTOWN, PORT OF SPAIN  
TRINIDAD, W.I.  
Tel: (868) 622-3770/4781  
Fax: (868) 622-3751  
Web site: [www.canto.org](http://www.canto.org)