Broadband Infrastructure Inventory and Public Awareness in the Caribbean (BIIPAC) Project

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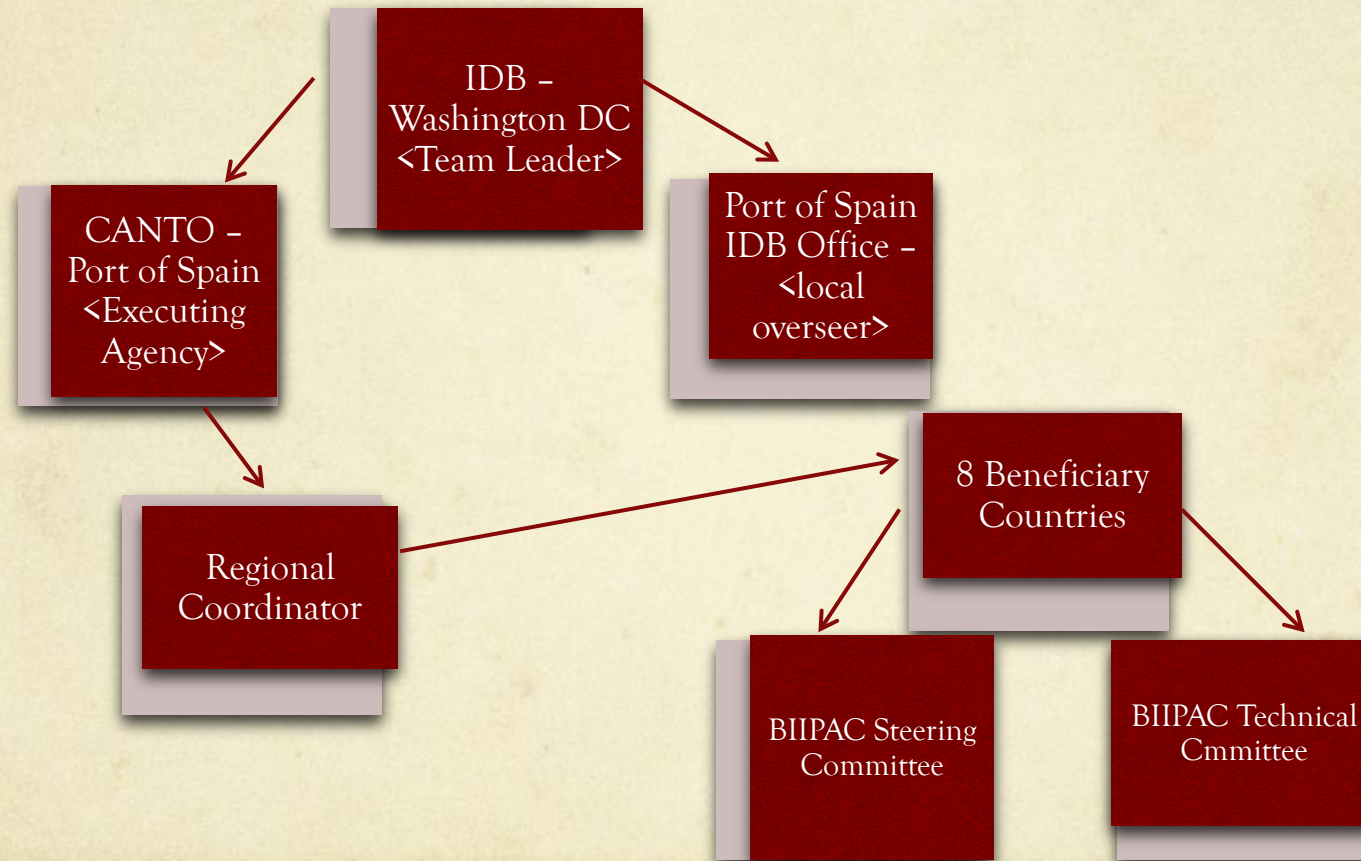
BIIPAC…Spin off of CTC

- Project's Genesis – Nov 2011 Broadband Forum

- Financing Plan – Facility for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods

- CANTO - Executing Agency

- Beneficiary Countries are Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Suriname, Belize, Guyana, Dominican Republic and Haiti

- Project budget – USD 840K in cash |USD 240K in in-kind support

- Start Date – Mar 27, 2013

- Project Duration – 24 months

- Procurement - Individual Consultants

BIIPAC Objectives

○ Support the design of national broadband strategies in the Caribbean

○ Identify the regional aspects that need to be incorporated into these strategies to support the Caribbean as it evolves towards universality in broadband access and service, regardless of

  ○ the location (ubiquity) or the

  ○ social strata (equity)

○ Better understand the status of Broadband infrastructural layout throughout the Caribbean

Organizational Structure of BIIPAC

Role of BIIPAC Steering Committee

○ Ensure the overall coordination and decision making

○ Facilitate cooperation among regional and national institutions in the provision of information & data

○ Inform the members' countries and stakeholders on issues

○ Approve the work plan and the tentative schedule of meetings

○ Analyze, harmonize and approve the national strategies in order to facilitate their future implementation in a regional context.

○ Recommend potential technical resources for the project

○ Take necessary action to support the activities and the work of the Technical Committee

○ 1st f2f meeting was held Jul 14 & 16, 2013 in Aruba

○ 2nd f2f meeting was held Aug 13, 2014 in the Bahamas

Role of BIIPAC Technical Committee

- national coordination of the Technical Cooperation activities with other institutions and agencies that may be involved;

- Liaise with the BIIPAC Component consultants and act as a link between them and other pertinent national institutions

- provide all required information to the TC consultants to enable the completion of their tasks;

- review and provide inputs on the deliverables submitted in the framework of the TC; and

- maintain the SC and the respective authorities informed on the development of the TC

- Transmit any observations, concerns and suggestions to ensure the achievement of the TC's objective.

- First f2f meeting was held Aug 12, 2014 in the Bahamas

- The TC is currently very advanced with their work with the BIIPAC Component 1 Consultant

The BIIPAC Project Components

- BIIPAC terms of reference exist at www.canto.org
- The TORs define the activities to be undertaken and the products to be delivered under each component

Broadband Diagnostic and Infrastructure maps	Review of legal and regulatory frameworks and current sector trends	ICT awareness and capacity building programs	Public Policy recommendations for the design of national broadband strategies

Laying of groundwork for increased broadband penetration

Broadband Diagnosis and Infrastructure Maps

Work on this Component commenced on Jan 23, 2014

○ Detailed broadband diagnosis and infrastructure maps.

○ Identification of country-specific socio-demographic variables.

○ Classification of geographic areas based on their penetration rates

○ Public policy recommendations for each government on how to accelerate the penetration rate and usage of broadband services.

○ *Result:* Public Policies, Understanding of Level of intervention necessary, PPPP consolidated

A key objective is to present the BPI and other indicators in a dynamic, visual and intuitive platform

1 Complete and updated information for different countries in the region

2 Reference tool in the region for consultation and analysis.

3 Presentation of BPI, the pillars that comprise it and other relevant socio-economic indicators.

4 Ability to collate and present comparative map variables.

Platform is... digiLAC

Review of Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks and Current Sector Trends

- Review the current regulatory framework for the telecom sector in each country.

- Proposed revisions to the regulation - level playing field for sector competition in the Region.

- Review the telecoms institutional framework in each country

- *Result:* Harmonized Regulatory framework, leveraging of private sector investment, effective implementation of broadband strategy

Work on Component 2 began on Nov 24, 2014

ICT Awareness and Capacity Building for the Caribbean

Work on Component 3 began on Nov 24, 2014

- A Component 3 seminar for regulators and policy makers will be organized during the regional workshop for component 2.

- Training materials developed under the framework of IDB's Broadband Platform, on the impact of ICTs in different strategic sectors will be leveraged in the training.

- In addition, practitioners will be invited to present international best practices, in an effort to create a *Community of Practice* in the Caribbean.

- A capacity building program for different actors in each country will be designed

- *Result:* increased use of and demand for broadband services

Public Policy Recommendations for the Design of National Broadband Strategies

○ Recommendations for the design of national broadband strategies for each government

○ Considerations to work towards a regional broadband strategy

○ Recommendations of a governance model per country

   ○ This is in order to facilitate the future implementation of the national broadband strategies and foster regional cooperation and coordination.

○ *Result:* blue print set for the acceleration of the penetration rate and usage of broadband services among the different stakeholders

This component can only commence upon the completion of component 1. Evaluation of prospective consultants to commence in Dec, 2014.

BIIPAC Highlights of Completed Work

- Conducted Consultations with stakeholders and consequently revised Scope of work.

- Obtained consensus on the remit of the Steering and Technical Committees.

- Revised project budget to include facility for in-person Steering Committee Meetings

- Conducted Procurement Methodology revision processes

- Commenced work on Component 1 in all 8 Beneficiary Countries

- Completed extensive consultant evaluation process for Components 2 and 3 and submitted contracts to the IDB

- Assessed feasibility of extending beneficiary country listing to OECS and Dutch Caribbean countries

- Began discussions to ensure seamless transition to implementation of recommendations which will result from BIIPAC.
  - Cost Quest was invited to the Jan 2014 CANTO AGM and fruitful discussions were subsequently had between them, CANTO, the CTU and IDB and an independent consultant, John Thompson.

- Cost Quest is keen on assisting BIIPAC in:
  - mapping the requirements and
  - preparing a proposal for the scope of work to present costing figures for deployment of broadband network scenarios

- Procured consultants for Components 2 and 3 and work has commenced on both components

Expected results of BIIPAC

- Broadband diagnosis and infrastructure maps
  - conclusions and policy recommendations for each participating Caribbean country.
  - Strengthening of digiLAC database

- Review of the regulatory and institutional frameworks
  - recommendations to address current sector trends.

- ICT awareness and capacity building in the Caribbean
  - Seminar and the creation of a Community of Practice of regulators, public officials and experts, and the design of national capacity building programs.

- Public policy recommendations for the design of national broadband strategies.

- This information will then feed into cost model projections to implement necessary work outlined from BIIPAC Project results and policy guidelines

Suggested BIIPAC Phase II : OECS

- At the Feb 2013 BIIPAC Phase I Launch, members of the OECS expressed interest in the BIIPAC project

- IDB Funds can only be used to support IDB Member Countries

- A grant from the Compete Caribbean Programme (CCP) was suggested to facilitate a 2nd phase of BIIPAC

- Beneficiary countries would have comprised Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts & Nevis.

Original suggested Components for BIIPAC Phase II

1. Broadband Diagnosis and Infrastructure Maps

2. Review of Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks and Current Sector Trends

3. Public Policy Recommendations for the Design of National Broadband Strategies

Each component would have had the exact TOR as its BIIPAC Phase I counterpart

BIIPAC Phase II : OECS

- It was planned for the CCP to work closely with CANTO and the IDB in the administration of BIIPAC Phase II.

- The suggested set up was the CCP as Executing Agency and CANTO as the Project Coordinator

- Each beneficiary country was asked to commit to contributing US $20,000.00 of in-kind assistance to the financing structure of this project

- Letters of Commitment were received from each country confirming willingness to provide in-kind support

- **The CCP subsequently decided in May 2014 to move forward only with the Broadband Mapping Component of BIIPAC in the OECS. This is because there are other projects in the OECS such as CARCIP with similar remits to Components 2 and 4 of BIIPAC.**

- Given the overlap of objectives, Compete Caribbean did not receive the go-ahead from its funding bodies for BIIPAC Phase II full project implementation

- **This update was communicated to the OECS govts by the CCP.**

- **The Mapping Component will be conducted by the CCP working directly with the beneficiary countries without partnership with CANTO.**

BIIPAC Highlights of Lessons Learned

- Critical to take initiatives to ensure implementation of next steps before project completion

- Implementation planning must be underscored by PPPP modus (regional banks, private sector cost modeling agencies, telecoms agencies, public and private sector institutions have been brought together)

- Many bureaucratic issues obtain when dealing with Pan-Caribbean projects

- Disconnects can obtain between funders, executing agencies and beneficiary bodies and must be carefully managed

- Focus must be on the entire Caribbean whilst respecting the nuances of each, for pan Caribbean broadband projects

- Local experts must vet project to ensure it is relevant to domestic realities and attune the TORs accordingly

- **Where there's a will, there is a way**

Thank you!

Questions / Inquiries?

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