

Topic:

Enhancing Effective Broadband Access in the Caribbean: A Status Report and Recommended Strategic Approaches.

Abstract:

Over the last decade, the Caribbean region, led by Jamaica, engaged in a process of strategic reform of its telecommunications policy, de-constructing an environment of monopoly service provision and embracing multi-player markets and mobile competition. This strategic change delivered widespread access to mobile phones, to users in all segments of the Caribbean market, where, in line with many other regions of the world, voice telephony became ubiquitous.

The presentation by Professor Hopeton Dunn will explore the post-access environment now faced by the region. It will emphasize the need for the region to more actively build on its pervasive mobile access to more widespread broadband access. The presentation will argue that this is required to meet wider educational, commercial and development objectives in making the region more globally competitive.

Participants will be informed about the results of recent national surveys from the region that disclose both the gaps and strategic opportunities for ICT-assisted development in the region. In addition, the progress of the region in switchover from analogue to digital television systems and the goal of moving from IPV4 to IPV6 technologies in the Caribbean will also be discussed.

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