Workshop for Caribbean Region to promote the Development and Implementation of Conformance and Interoperability Programmes

2-4 December 2014, St. Augustine (Trinidad and Tobago)

Report

Introduction

ITU organized the *Workshop for Caribbean Region to promote the Development and Implementation of Conformance and Interoperability Programmes*, from 2 to 4 December 2014, held on St. Augustine (Trinidad and Tobago), and in collaboration with the Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU) and the University of West Indies (UWI).

In the framework of the Conformity & Interoperability Programme, conformity and interoperability assessment studies has being conducted for the Caribbean from August to September 2014.

These studies aimed to identify all the necessary elements to promote collaboration among regional and sub-regional organizations for establishing a common Conformity and Interoperability Regime through Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) and/or regional test centres, as appropriated.

The study for the Caribbean was conducted by ITU Regional Office and ITU Headquarters, and ITU Consultants Michele Marius and Alvin Augustin conducted the C&I Assessment Study for the Caribbean Region.

Possible scenarios to meet Member States and Regions needs on Conformity & Interoperability were presented at this event. The workshop programme is available on the BDT web page.

Three regional organizations attended the workshop: the Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU); the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ); The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunication Authority (ECTEL). 33 participants, 7 from Caribbean countries, attended the event: TATT-Trinidad and Tobago; Conatel-Haiti; URCA-Bahamas; NTRC-Saint Lucia; TAS-Suriname; SMA and OUR – Jamaica; Guyana.

From ITU, Mr. Cleveland Thomas (Head of the ITU Area Office in Barbados for the Caribbean), Mr. Vladimir Daigele (BDT/IEE/TND), Mr. Denis Andreev (TSB), and Mr. Andrew Kwan (ITU expert) attended the workshop. Also, CPqD (Brazil), UNIS (Ukraine), Approve-it (USA), TTBS (Trinidad and Tobago) and other organizations were present at the event. The presence list can be found in Annex I of this Report.

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Assessment Study on C&I for the Caribbean

The ITU Report indicates three different approaches to be recommended: 1) Building in-countries labs; 2) Building a Regional Test Centre; 3) Signing MRAs between Caribbean countries. Supporting the outcomes, it recommends the creation of a Task Force under the supervision of the CTU secretariat for discussing and sharing a common approach for C&I in the region. For the establishment of MRAs, it has been identified that CITEL members already published an Inter-American MRA.

Session 7: Ways Forward

An outcome document was produced recommending Ways Forward. The workshop considered 5 tasks to be performed in parallel. These tasks should be co-ordinated by a regional working group chaired by the CTU.

Administrations were also encouraged to participate in the ITU-D Study Group 2 Question 4, and ITU-T Study Group 11 (ITU-T SG11).

It was also recommended that the ITU AMS region inform the prime minister responsible for ICT within CARICOM, with the intention of securing support at the regional level.

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BDT/IEE/TND
December 12th*, 2014*

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Annex I - List of participants

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