



## GRENADA'S EXPERIENCE

**TITLE: Foster the development of a modern, efficient, well-maintained infrastructure between and within countries and foster the rapid adoption of new technologies by economies, including information technology and communications (ITCs)**



**Country:** Grenada

**Institution:** Ministry of Communications, Works, Physical Development, Public Utilities & ICT

**Type of Institution:** Public

**Other institutions involved:** World Bank, International Development Association (IDA)

### Context

Challenged with the reality of the crippling effects of a global financial crisis and a national employment rate which approximates 30%, the Government of Grenada (GOG) was inspired to create innovative ways of counteracting the double effect of these two realities.

As an immediate response, 5 key pillars for recovery and stimulation of growth were identified. The ICT sector featured prominently. It therefore became mandatory that the foundation of broadband services be affordable, accessible and applicable and also affords spinoff services. The thinking of the Grenada Government on ICT has not only been recognized locally but also regionally and hence a Regional Digital Development Strategy was developed by CARICOM's ICT4D and ratified by the Heads of Government, to address key policy and regulatory bottlenecks which constrain the use of ICT to stimulate growth.

The harmonization of the national plan with the regional agenda has culminated in the GoG making significant investments in the area of ICT.

The regional agenda is specifically propagated through CARCIP (a US\$10,000,000 five (5) year ICT program) an umbrella project of the World Bank made available to all CARIFORUM states (CARICOM and The Dominican Republic). Thus far Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent have confirmed participation in this program.

### Objectives

The proposed objective of the CARCIP Grenada Programme is to increase access to regional broadband networks and advance the development of an ICT-enabled services industry.

### Relevance

CARCIP will allow the participating countries to accelerate the deployment of critical regional infrastructure to foster regional economic development and growth through ICT. This will be achieved through support and technical assistance to bridge the physical connectivity gaps in Grenada and improve the enabling environment by setting up the infrastructure and environment to develop IT and IT-Enabled Services (ITES) industries as drivers to foster employment and economic growth; and supporting institutional development and capacity building to maximize the development potential of the regional and national ICT infrastructure to diversify and stimulate growth. Through its implementation citizens of Grenada will benefit from improved and affordable broadband access and services including public services.

### Implementation

**Component 1: Regional Connectivity Infrastructure** - This component will be aimed at bridging the remaining gaps in Grenada's broadband communications infrastructure, this component will address:

- (i) The physical connectivity infrastructure, specifically linking Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique; and
- (ii) Fostering an enabling environment that would ensure Public Private Partnership in the ownership and/or management of the infrastructure, as well as competitive access.

**Component 2: Assessment and development of Grenada's ICT skills and certification programme.**

This component will involve the following: -

- A quantitative analysis of the ICT sector and determine its level of maturity.
- An assessment of the ICT skills needs of the national labour market
- An assessment of the number of ICT training facilities, curricula, capacity, location and distribution for these facilities in the state of Grenada.
- Gap analysis to determine capacity to meet ICT skills needs of the labour market
- Appropriate skills training and certification program aligned to approved national, regional and international standards for ICT and that would allow for innovative thinking and job creation in the ICT Sector
- The development of a policy framework, mechanism and action plan for undertaking ICT skills development interventions and forecasting IT and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) skills needs

**Component 3: ICT Business Incubation**

This component will involve the development a vibrant ICT business sector through the provision of a business incubator and relevant grants to support innovative ICT business ideas.

### Distribution of tasks

The administration of the program will include:

- (i) National Level Project Coordination Unit (PCU) already established within the Ministry of Finance who will manage the fiduciary aspects of the respective project components
- (ii) Project Coordinator mainstreamed within the Ministry of ICT who will coordinate project activities on behalf of the Government

- (iii) National level steering committee who will provide guidance on strategic issues
- (iv) Regional institutions who will collate best practices and ensure that the program's regional aspects are well reflected during implementation, and shared activities are implemented at the regional level to reduce costs

### Achievements and results

#### Results: (on completion of project)

- Increase access and affordability of broadband communication networks within Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique
- Foster the development of Grenada Information Technology (IT) Industry
- Contribute to improved government efficiency and transparency through the delivery of e-services, including e-government and e-society applications
- Develop a cadre of skilled and certified ICT professionals
- Create employment opportunities in ICT.

#### Achievements as of August 2013 are:-

- The Project Coordinator has been hired
- The Project Implementation Manual has already been developed
- Support for the Internet Exchange Point (IXP) has been facilitated and tenders have already been received for the provisions of a generator, uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS), Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) and voltage regulator for the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) building where the IXP is housed.
- The development of the capacity building framework for project stakeholders. The main focus being, the PCU, The Ministry of ICT and the General Public. The focus for the general public will be sensitization on the possibilities that exists in technology and the use of broadband networks
- TORs for the three (3) components of the project have been developed.

### Capacity to replicate and potential for exchange of this experience

CARCIP will support the implementation of the region's comprehensive strategy (Regional Digital Development Strategy - CARICOM), allowing the countries to accelerate the deployment of critical regional infrastructure to foster regional economic development and growth. It expects to do this through support of physical connectivity gaps as well as technical assistance to improve the enabling environment to maximize the development potential of the regional ICT infrastructure to diversify and stimulate growth.

### Experience and sustainable results

We would be very interested in exploring export opportunities to RIAC countries for manufacturers and entrepreneurs we are working with.

### Modalities to facilitate the exchange

CARCIP provides targeted solutions for countries to benefit from the developmental and transformational potential of ICT.

First, CARCIP provides opportunities for the CARIFORUM region to bridge the remaining gaps in regional and domestic broadband communications infrastructure.

Second, CARCIP aims at creating an enabling environment that leverages this regional and domestic infrastructure to foster employment and economic growth.

Finally, CARCIP aims at supporting institutional development and capacity building that enhances the effectiveness of the regional institutional ICT framework.

#### **Good practices and concrete lessons**

The Grenada CARCIP project ultimately seeks to contribute to the higher strategic objectives of regional and global integration, green growth and competitiveness of the Caribbean region. CARCIP is expected to contribute to the CARIFORUM regional integration strategy by fostering economic growth, generating employment, supporting poverty reduction plans, enabling rural integration and enhancing the regional and domestic competitiveness of each of the member countries.

Moreover, CARCIP is also expected to have an indirect impact on education through the integration with the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN), enabling domestic education institutions and schools to connect the regional CKLN network.

#### **Key persons involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation**

A national steering committee was established to oversee the design and implementation of this project Caribbean Regional Communication Infrastructure Programme (CARCIP) - Grenada. The following persons are part of the committee :

Hon. Alvin DaBreo - Minister of State with responsibility for ICT, Ministry of Communication, Works, Public Utilities, Physical Development and ICT, [alvin.dabreo@gmail.com](mailto:alvin.dabreo@gmail.com)

Mr. Steve George - Chairman of CARCIP Steering Committee, Terminal Manager, Rubis; Grenada, [s.george@rubis-grenada.com](mailto:s.george@rubis-grenada.com)

Mr. Juan Bailey - CKLN representative, Information Systems Manager CKLN, [juan.bailey@ckln.org](mailto:juan.bailey@ckln.org)

Mr. Ronald Theodore – Vice President, Promotion and Marketing, GIDC representative, [rtheodore@grenadagodc.com](mailto:rtheodore@grenadagodc.com)

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