

*CARISNET- Strengthening the Caribbean ICT stakeholders Virtual Community - CIVIC- as a regional mechanism to promote and support the use of ICT for development in the Caribbean*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. What is the CARISNET project?**

The project is intended to strengthen the CIVIC network by:

- providing moderated discussion spaces; and conducting and systematizing outputs of discussion on issues previously agreed by/with the virtual community constituency;
- promoting broader membership among non English speaking stakeholders;
- supporting the establishment of a regional database of ICT initiatives practitioners and resources in the region, and
- brokering discussions with donors to identify/establish support for collaborative projects

### **2. Is this a CIVIC project?**

This is not a CIVIC project, but a project being undertaken by a few CIVIC members, to support the strengthening and capacity for action of CIVIC as an multi-stakeholder information and knowledge network, and strengthen CIVIC's ability to develop and implement "CIVIC projects".

### **3. Who is implementing the project?**

The project is being implemented through the collaborative efforts of 4 Caribbean NGOs, namely : Jamaica Sustainable Development Network Ltd, Fundación Taigüey, Dominican Republic), Foundation Networks & Development (FUNREDES), and DevNet (Guyana)

### **4. Why these organisations?**

These organisations have been part of CIVIC since its inception, and shared a mutual desire to strengthen and consolidate a number of CIVIC's initiatives. They acted upon the ICA Call for proposals because they felt that they could bring their experience to serve the cause of CIVIC and it an opportunity for cross cultural collaboration across the region on issues of mutual interest.

### **5. Where does support for the project come from?**

The major support for the project comes from the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) an Institute that emerged from the 2001 Summit of the Americas to promote the implementation of innovative uses of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development in Latin America and the Caribbean`. ICA issued a Call for proposals (Caribbean) in 2004 and this proposal was granted US\$60,000. In kind contribution of the project partners is estimated at 15,000 \$ (web servers, human resources). Support for additional components of the project (US\$16,000) is being sought from other donors.

### **6. Over what period will the project be implemented?**

The project will be implemented between March 2005-April 2006. Public Launch will be mid June 2005.

## **7. What are the outputs of the project?**

The outputs of the project are :-

- Enhanced exchanges and integration of key actors through a strengthened virtual community
- Coordination for the preparation of collective position documents that reflects positions and recommendations of Caribbean wide sectors
- Impact on national strategies and agendas, regional and global processes, (WSIS 2005, Caricom, among others)
- Increased membership from and participation of French and Spanish speaking countries
- Interactive multilingual online clearinghouse of project information, continuously updated
- Development of collaborative regional projects proposals (call for proposals)
- Strengthened collaboration and coherence of the donors support in the region

## **8. What will happen to the project outputs during and after the project?**

The products of the project will be made available to all interested parties pursuant to the terms of the Creative Commons Licence Agreement (Attribution Share Alike 1.0 Version) a copy of which is available at [www.creativecommons.org](http://www.creativecommons.org). Any reference to the published results will acknowledge the support of ICA and the IDRC.

The project is designed so that the outputs will lead to other levels of activity which will enhance the CIVIC community and lead to further collaborative activities across the Caribbean.. The permanent interactive online clearinghouse will be managed using the principles and guidelines established during the project and which will be open content and freely available after the project.

## **9. How can other organizations and individuals become involved?**

Individuals and organizations can become involved via their CIVIC membership by:

- helping to determine which topics are of interest to the group and by joining the discussion fora
- providing success stories, best practices on ICT4D in their countries
- participating in data collection for the regional database for ICT4D activities

Honoraria will be provided for the data collection activities.

## **10. How will CIVIC and the region benefit from the project?**

CIVIC, and the Caribbean region in general will benefit from increased and structured knowledge about ICT4D in the region, as well as increased diversity through the broader inclusion of French and Spanish speaking stakeholders. The moderated discussions will facilitate the development of position papers and increased awareness of issues affecting the region. This will provide improved opportunities for collective action, pooling of resources to address common problems, sharing of lessons learned and eventually a unified voice on ICT interest, issues and strategies for the region.