

ENGLISH

Dear colleagues

We are happy to announce the launch of the Caribbean ICT4D Clearinghouse at <http://clearinghouse.carisnet.org> a result of the CARISNET project funded by the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA)

The objective of the Clearinghouse is to support information exchange, research, and action by providing content related to the use of Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) and ICT related policies, initiatives, skills, resources and opportunities which exist within the Caribbean.

The design of the Clearinghouse was done with the input of CIVIC members (consultation dated June 2005).

The Clearinghouse will be initially hosted and technically managed by DevNet as part of the CARISNET project, but we look forward to

- \* have a CIVIC members content management team
- \* conduct a discussion of with an "interface/technical" subgroup that should be formed after some members proposals to move from Dgroup (as we believe any new Civic platform should be articulated with this clearinghouse)
- \*seek to establish a mechanism for CIVIC ownership of the database , and that needs a new "civic governance" mechanism to be defined

We have started to input some content, and ALL CIVIC members are invited and encouraged to register with the clearinghouse and submit items of content, in English, French, Dutch, Creole Papapmiento or Spanish or any other regional language. Please also use the database to submit your own profiles.

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Yours

Vidya

Devent / on behalf of the CarISnet consortium