A unique multi-stakeholder regional event to
Integrate and empower Caribbean ICT4D stakeholders
Unleash the transformation potential of ICTs for the region
www.carisnet.org/en/civic2008

About the event

The CIVIC 2.0 event has 3 main components:

The main focus is on the **CIVIC consultation process** that will identify and elaborate the components of a 2-3 year strategic plan for CIVIC to address **the challenges facing ICT for development in the Caribbean** (through enhanced capacity for advocacy, knowledge production, ICT4D projects design and evaluation, regional collaborative projects, among others).

- The two other components are:

  o Two day **training in ICT4D policy,**
  o One **day training in the moderation and facilitation** of thematic channel/web sub-groups. This will feature launch and introduction of Launch of the **new CIVIC 2.0 platform**

More details on the CIVIC and each event component in the sections below.

Event venue and structure

The CIVIC Event will be held on **November 11th to 14th 2008** at the Coral Costa Caribe[1] resort in **Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic**. The following activities will be part of the event:

November 11-12   A training workshop **on the Development of policy for ICT4D** (30 participants)

November 12   Volunteer CIVIC 2.0 channel managers **Training in facilitation and moderation of discussion groups** on topics relevant to ICTs for development

November 13-14   CIVIC Consultations - broader discussions that will lead to the development of a 2-3 year strategic plan for CIVIC

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[1] See http://www.coralhotels.com/

More about the CIVIC consultation

The objective of the Consultations is to **define a work plan and enhanced mechanisms** to:

- Increase **CIVIC inputs and impact on** regional and national **public policies** through enhanced and effective advocacy

- Increase **knowledge production, research and dissemination** in specific thematic ICT4D areas relevant to the Caribbean region

- Increase **capacity in conceptualisation, design, implementation** and evaluation **of ICT4D project and programs** among Caribbean stakeholders

- Increase **regional collaboration** in ICT4D research and projects

Broaden the **unique multi-stakeholder membership** and increase **participation** of non English speaking Caribbean stakeholders

More about the ICT4D training

The training seminar that is being proposed will cover **ICT policy for social, economic and cultural development and policy for development of the ICT sector itself** as well as approaches to convergence of sector and ICT policies. The seminar content supports the capacity building aims of CIVIC and the IDRC.

The training seminar is being presented in collaboration with the ICT4D Jamaica, and will be conducted by Dr. Elaine Wallace, ICT Policy and Regulation consultant.,

The following areas will be covered over the two days:
- ICT and development: ICT4D as development concept
- Public Policy Frameworks
- ICT Convergence policy-making
- Global and regional networks of policy-making
- Divergence: Digital divides in the Global ICT environment
- ICT policy as cross-cutting: the link with sectoral policy
- ICT4D policy advocacy in practice

More about the CIVIC 2.0 channel managers training

A CIVIC channel is a sub-section within CIVIC 2.0 web platform <u>and</u> a sub-group of members who have a specific area of interest. **A channel is built on a combination of web 2.0 tools** as: a specific discussion forum/list and its archives, a specific web space, editorial blogs, a specific resource section, member's pages, and other knowledge and collaboration tools. A channel can be thematic (ICT for education, health, disaster management, SMEs etc.), transversal/process oriented (design, implementation, evaluation, policy, advocacy etc), or geographic (country, sub-region):

The volunteer channel managers be trained:
- to **manage their channe**l, including how to use the content management interface, add/edit resources, add events, calendar, forums, translation tools, etc. user level knowledge management)

- How to **moderate and facilitate virtual groups**, management techniques (this is not technical at all, but about "social/group/network" management and dynamics), etc.

The channel managers are being selected within the CIVIC community through a call and internal discussion.

Financial Support

Through the CARISNET 2 project, the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) will provide fifty (50) CIVIC members with financial support that will cover airfare and all inclusive accommodation to attend the CIVIC Consultations and one training activity.

Multilingualism

Provisions will be made for translation and interpretation into English, Spanish and French for the various sessions. Group activity will be facilitated by "whispering" interpreters. The training will be in English only, unless a significant group of non-English speaking participant registers and additional resources for translators can be secured.

Organisation

The event is organised on behalf of CIVIC by the CarISnet consortium[2,] that comprises 4 Caribbean non for profit organisations: Fundación Taigüey (Dominican Republic) Jamaica Sustainable Development Network – JSDN (Jamaica) DevNet (Guyana) Association Haïtienne pour le développement des TICs -AHTIC (Haïti), with support from the IDRC/ICA

JSDN is in charge of defining the agenda and the content, with the support of task force of CIVIC volunteers; Fundación Taigüey of the logistics; AHTIC of coordinating the development of the new CIVIC 2.0 platform that will be presented at the conference.

An additional number of volunteer members are participating in the event definition, configuration and planning, through virtual working groups and participation in planning meetings. A professional external facilitation consultant has been engaged to support the objectives of the event. A report on each of the workshop training sessions as well as the outcomes of the CIVIC conference will be compiled as part of the Event proceedings

Register now!

Please fill the form at http://eventregistration.carisnet.org/ Before October 15th 2008.

Please make sure to indicate:
- which activities you wish to attend (eg consultation only, ICT4D training)
- whether you need financial support
- whether you need a formal letter addressed to your organisation head

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[2] The CarISneT consortium was duly mandated by the CIVIC:
See http://www.carisnet.org/files/mandate2.pdf

Annex 1: More about CIVIC

CIVIC, the Caribbean ICT Stakeholders Virtual Community is a regional multistakeholder permanent virtual network of around 300 members comprising individuals from all sectors (Governments, Academy Business, Development cooperation, Civicl Society, regional organisations etc.) that have an interest in promoting the use of ICTs in the region.

It was established in late 2002 as an outcome of the Caribbean ICT Roundtable held in Barbados, with the support of Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The online virtual community has evolved over the period and grown from the initial 50 members to 300 nowadays, who permanently exchange and interact, promoting regional perspectives, actions and collaboration in the field of ICTs for Development. Since 2002, aside from the permanent networking, it has developed regional position papers (as for WSIS and WGIG) and produced knowledge in several areas, while better integrating the ICT4D stakeholders in the Caribbean region

Notwithstanding these achievements, additional skills and efficient modes of operation are required to enable CIVIC to more effectively promote ICTs for development in the region. Specifically, the following needs to be addressed:

- Increased impact on regional and national public policies through enhanced and effective advocacy
- Maintenance and broadening of the unique multi-stakeholder membership profile which includes members mid- and senior level government officers, business persons and entrepreneurs, academics, program officers in regional agencies, concerned NGOs and social activists
- Increased participation of non English speaking Caribbean stakeholders
- Improved and increased regional collaborative initiatives and projects
- Effective facilitation of knowledge production, research and dissemination In specific thematic areas
- Increased capacity in conceptualisation, design, implementation and evaluation of ICT4D project and programs among stakeholders.
- Sustainability of the overall CIVIC mechanism

To learn more:

CIVIC charter and how to join: http://carisnet.org/en/node/2
CIVIC documents, surveys http://carisnet.org/en/backgrounddocuments
CIVIC membership statistics: http://carisnet.org/files/CIVIC-Statistic-V3.6-nolisting.pdf

The CarISnet Consortium consists of four organisations from the Caribbean dedicated to spreading the strategic use of ICTs for sustainable human development of the Caribbean. These are DevNet (Guyana), Fundación Taigüey (Dominican Republic), Jamaica Sustainable Development Network – JSDN (Jamaica), Association Haïtienne pour le Développement des TICs -AHTIC (Haïti)

The original consortium was formed in 2005 to propose a project to strengthen the multistakeholder Caribbean ICT stakeholder community CIVIC – the CarISNet-1 project. The project received support from the International Development Research Centre and the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas, and was implemented between 2005 and January 2007. See the CarISnet 1 menu on www.carinet.org the left for details and results of its implementation.

In 2007 the consortium formulated a follow up project – named CarISNet-2 and subtitled Integrating and Empowering the Caribbean ICT4D stakeholders; Unleashing the transformation potential for the region - aiming to contribute to the social and economic development of the Caribbean region by strengthening the capacity of local stakeholders for regional collaborative action on critical ICT4D issues/initiatives in the Caribbean that has among its main objectives.

The main specific objective of this new phase is to facilitate the participative development of a Two year Strategic Work Plan aimed at consolidating CIVIC as a regional catalyst for ICT4D networking in the region. For this, we plan to organise the CIVIC 2.0 event inviting about 100 stakeholders. Additionally we will organise several capacity building activities during this meeting. CarISNet-2 started in April 2008. See the CarISnet 2 menu on www.carisnet.org for details on its implementation and how to participate.

Additionally the CarISnet Consortium members are also partners for the implementation of the Caribbean Telecentre Alliance (ACT!) Start-up project (named ACT!ivate), that is scheduled to start by mid 2008, with the support of telecentre.org. See www.taiguey.org/activate for more details

Caribbean Information Society Networking
CarISnet - Consortium

Carisnet-1, Carisnet-2 projects supported by   ACT!ivate project supported by