



# commonwealth connects

**Meeting of Caribbean Multilateral Development  
Partners**

**Port of Spain, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February**

**A. Ming**

# Commonwealth Connects

- Background to the Commonwealth Connects Programme
- The Focus of the CCP
- CC Caribbean Regional Meeting Sept. 30 – October 1 2010
- ICT Priorities identified
- Significant Outcomes from the Regional Meetings ICT
- Objectives of the Multilaterals' Meeting
- Desired Outcomes

# CHOGM

- Heads of Government recognized the important role that information and communications technology (ICT) can play in economic and social transformation. They expressed their appreciation for the work of the Steering Committee of Commonwealth Connects, and welcomed its 2009 Report to CHOGM. **They endorsed the strategy to focus on promoting strategic partnerships, building ICT capacity and helping member countries to access new resources.**
- Heads recognized the role of the Commonwealth Connects programme as a catalyst for the initiation of partnerships to promote the use of ICT for development, and reiterated their support for the continued role of the programme in helping make ICTs available to citizens, businesses and governments throughout the Commonwealth. **They encouraged increased partnering and sharing of expertise from ICT advanced member countries, as well as further contributions to the Commonwealth Connects Special Fund.**

## The Focus of the Commonwealth Connects Programme (CCP)

- CC is about sharing knowledge, insight, tools and content that can help countries accelerate, and in some cases, leap-frog development
- CC is not about creating or funding initiatives, but about facilitating and supporting ICT4D efforts
- Governments need to drive and fund their own development agendas
- The program is demand driven – it offers a *hand-up* not a *hand-out*

## Objectives for the 2010 Regional Meetings

- Engage the POCs and orient them and the multilaterals to the CCP
- Create clear specific view of action that can be taken to maximise the benefits that can be drawn from the programme
- Transform from a vision and an idea into a tangible roadmap to drive results
- Establish a clear way forward for Commonwealth Connects

## Multilateral Partnerships

- Regional Meeting enabled CC to introduce the CCP to the major organisations that recognise the value of ICT for development
- Project funding decisions at regional and national levels
- Most participated in regional meetings and see CC partnership opportunities
- The POCs and the multilaterals themselves saw the value of a specific meeting to identify each organisation's current and planned initiatives related to ICT4D

## **RM Outcome No. 1 - Broad priority ICT needs Identified**

- Regional and national ICT strategies,
- e-Government,
- Rural connectivity,
- Raising political awareness about correlation between ICT capacity and economic development
- Create Twinning mechanisms to match countries' needs with countries that are able to satisfy need

**Status – specific project requests are being received**

## Outcome No. 2 – CC Project Ideas Developed by POCs

### Sensitize Country Leadership

- Engage with Heads of Government and Ministers
- Facilitate horizontal interaction within Government
- Create Regional and National fora on ICT4D
- Involve the private sector – and encourage Profitable PPP
- Expressly focus on Benefits

### NICT Strategy

- Program to assist countries in developing NICT
- Champion to lead – CC to support
- Facilitate and bring together stakeholders to establish vision
- Develop a set of Objectives, a Plan, key Deliverables and Milestones
- Commit to Plan Implementation

### Rural Access

- Bring together models of Rural programmes that work
- Identify ideas and ways to engage communities in identifying their needs
- Shared expertise across Commonwealth countries facilitated by CC
- Potentially identify a team of developers and ideas for application development

### eGov Services

- Models of Best Practice identified and shared
- Governments identify candidate services
- Technical platforms and requirements defined
- Members state budgets earmarked
- Resources identified
- Master Plan for implementation defined

## Outcome No. 3 – Identification of Stumbling Blocks that Prevent Action on Needs

### Political Support

- Understanding of ICT contribution to development
- Decision makers' knowledge
- Short term behaviours not linked to long term objectives

### Lack of Cohesive Strategy

- No clear champion to drive a vision
- Strategies not anchored in reality
- Tactical and disjointed efforts
- Benefits not articulated

### No Implementation Plan

- No systematic and consistent implementation plans
- Lack of defined deliverables and milestones
- Silos within Government hinder cohesive effort and dissipate meager resources

### Resources

- Competent staff resources to do the work
- Funds to drive the programs
- Consistency in implementation

## Outcome No 4 – The launch of The Commonwealth Connects inventory of ICT wealth

- [www.commonwealthconnects.org](http://www.commonwealthconnects.org) – the CC ICT Repository featured as a major agenda item in the Regional Meetings.
- The database is a systematic inventory of what member states can offer/share in the areas of policy, best practice, strategies, technical expertise and business application software

### Status

- POCs see this as intrinsically valuable - they are capturing and uploading relevant country content to the Repository

## Outcome No. 5 – Development of a Plan of Action to be executed by POCs and COMNET

- Brief respective organisations about CC and regional meetings outcomes
- Sensitise political leaders and other stakeholders on the role of ICT as a pre requisite for development
- Devise suitable in-country network to promote CC and exploit its potential ebenefits
- Ensure appropriate strategies in place to achieve coherence of development and maximise value for investment
- Identify candidate projects for CC
- Identify candidate ICT assets for sharing
- Advise in favour of alignment of ICT initiatives with national policy priorities

- Establish relations with country/regional development partner agencies through appropriate country sources
- Organise a Meeting of Multilateral Development Partners to share information on ICT4D programmes
  - Identify opportunities for collaboration and ensure no duplication
- Participate at the ICT Ministers Meeting
  - To re-energise commitment for ICT strategies and further educate on potential benefits and societal impact

*REGIONAL MEETINGS REPORT BEING LAUNCHED TODAY*

## Connects Initiatives

- Creating multifaceted partnerships
- Developing and maintaining an proactive Champions network
- Creating and maintaining a repository of ICT wealth across the Commonwealth
- Facilitating twinning opportunities and bi-lateral arrangements
- Conducting technical missions on specific ICT4D thematic areas including:
  - eGovernment
  - ICT strategies
  - Digital migration
  - Enabling Legislation
  - Regulatory policies / organization
- Replicating best practices and development initiatives

## **Objectives of the Caribbean Multilaterals' Meeting**

- To bring together Caribbean development partners for them to outline their respective ICT activities at regional or national levels.
- To acquire a better understanding of the respective mandates of these organisations including relative priority of ICT4D, and concomitant regional or national budgetary allocations.
- To tease out options for potential future co-ordinated undertakings at regional or national levels within the context of regional and national strategies.
- To explore prospects of elevating ICT4D as a strategic priority for development partners with concomitant budgetary allocations.
- To explore opportunities for developing improved awareness of ICT as a priority in political circles and with other stakeholders as appropriate.
- To identify key policy initiatives that will serve to create a more conducive environment for infrastructure and other ICT investments at a regional and at national levels.

## Desired Outcomes

- Develop a coherent and comprehensive picture of extant activities of multilateral agencies to be presented as an agenda item at the Ministers' ICT Strategic Seminar.
- Propose to Ministers a set of initiatives to progress regional and NICT agendas.
- Serve to illustrate the need for ICT to be a strategic priority for socio-economic development.
- Galvanise key regional decision makers into action to address the digital gap with commitment of adequate resources.
- Achieve consensus on logical delineation between regional & national undertakings.
- Agree to implementable regional and national ICT strategies as roadmaps for future development including a collaborative approach with governments and development partners in establishing clean targets and metrics for attainment.
- Propose appropriate structures to further ICT development objectives.
- Identify capacity building requirements to achieve development objectives.