

7th Caribbean Ministerial Strategic ICT Seminar

Washington DC: March 29th – 31st 2010

Aspects of Leadership: Pre-Requisite for Caribbean Transformation

*Dr. Noel Woodroffe
President, Congress WBN*



Caribbean
Telecommunications
Union



The Thesis ...

- Technology does indeed create the pathway to a viable future but it ultimately will not succeed without a defined underlayer in small developing and increasingly paralyzed island states
- The description, definition and construction of that “underlayer” is the most critical present demand upon the current crop of Caribbean top-level leaders

The Current Context: *Conditions mandating leadership definition*

*“Open your eyes and look
within: Are you satisfied with
the life you're living?”*

Bob Marley, Exodus

Conditions mandating leadership definition ...

- Impotence birthed out of small size which has transitioned into the corporate mentality of the Caribbean nations
- The drag of relatively recent poisonous history - (enslavement and colonialism) – has never really been removed by clear leadership decision to define the “New Caribbean Man”

The Current Context

Conditions mandating leadership definition ...

- The “psychic stain” of historical negative circumstances has to be removed by targeted leadership effort.
 - The removal of that “stain” is the pre-requisite for future victory

The Current Context

Conditions mandating leadership definition ...

- The responsibility of shaping and defining our peoples is ours alone!
 - The “New Philosophy” must be driven by our realization together of the impending danger of complete eradication!

The Current Context

Conditions mandating leadership definition ...

- So we have to fix this while we put in fibre optic cables across the region
 - We have to rebuild the mentalities of our youth while we place 3G enabled cell phones in their hands
- We have to define a new Caribbean philosophy while we roll out e-government initiatives
 - We have to radically redefine the future as we push for Caribbean based IXPs in our region

Activating the Pressure Points

5 Pillars for Caribbean Transformation

Integration ...

- Looking again at our desperate need to move to some level of strategic oneness
 - The level of definition of our integrated-ness can have a marked impact on the design and deployment of our technology infrastructure

Security ...

- The pressing need to act as one to secure our fragile borders:
 - Increasing dangers inherent in South-South migration and the rise of new networks
 - Movement of criminals among the islands
 - Growth of the regional drug problem
 - Importance of technology utilization to secure a safe future for the islands

Corruption ...

- Mobilization for a region-wide fight
 - Corruption ultimately kills of the confidence of the people in the possibility of newness
 - Countering this threat points first to requirement for the exercise of will from the highest levels of Caribbean leadership

Diaspora ...

- The redefinition of the nature of nation
 - Finding energy outside the geographical boundaries of small states
 - Tapping into the mentality resources of our developed neighbours
 - Finding ways to redeem the damaging impact of human resource flight

Partnerships ...

- Importance of **radical new levels** of public/private partnerships
 - Driven by the acceleration of new Government mentality and position on the need for these
 - Tech companies investing and involved in education development to hitherto unprecedented levels

Applicable Lessons from the Congress WBN Experience

“...faith without deeds is useless”

James 2:20

New International Version

Derived from the C-WBN experience

- The 1st massive resource is a Configured People
 - “Public hope can bend reality!”
 - Hope produces: willingness to work; joy in sacrifice; abundant cooperation; desire to invest and not escape; positive description rather than ‘bad-talk’

Derived from the C-WBN experience

- We learnt the incredible principle of **“Flattening and Integration”**
 - Reducing the gap between governor and the governed
 - Increasing authority by distributing power
 - Maximising buy-in and ownership by all.

Derived from the C-WBN experience

- People have to “see” leaders at work for their corporate welfare.
 - we have to move from the raw exercise of political power to emphasize securing corporate life and guaranteeing continuance
- An *emphatically declared* and defined new vision for Caribbean identity is necessary

Derived from the C-WBN experience

- The sheer power of leadership courage and visible passion
 - “Reality is ultimately not rational”
 - “Faith discovered and declared creates the Future”
 - Churchill and Kennedy taught the world that!
- Desperate need in the Caribbean for “Leadership Largeness”

About the Presenter

Dr. Noel Woodroffe is the Founder and President of Congress WBN and has overseen its rapid development from a fledgling, twelve-member group in Trinidad in 1990 to a massive global network of professional groups, education institutions, businesses, churches, national leaders and university students that now operates on every continent and in over 85 nations.

He is responsible for the ongoing development of global systems, processes and programs to facilitate holistic human, social and national development based on clearly defined moral and ethical platforms.

A former lecturer at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, Dr Woodroffe is a renowned international speaker and author.

He is an internationally recognized thought-leader and development specialist and has designed and led numerous leadership training, organizational transformation and education-based initiatives across the globe.



7th Caribbean Ministerial Strategic ICT Seminar

Washington DC: March 29th – 31st 2010

Aspects of Leadership: Pre-Requisite for Caribbean Transformation



Caribbean
Telecommunications
Union



© 2010 Congress WBN.
All Rights Reserved