

The 2019 Barbados Internet Governance Forum

Presentation for the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum 2020.





Smart Barbados Week 2019

A digital encounter

Smart Barbados Week (Oct 1-4, 2019)

4-day national symposium on innovation & digital transformation

3 Key Goals

- Define what it would mean for Barbados to be a smart nation and how it would improve the lives of citizens
- Identify some of the strategies and actions necessary to get there
- Build the national consensus necessary for such an all-encompassing transformation effort

4 Key Events

- The 2-day Smart Barbados Week Conference (Oct 1-2)
- The Digital Technologies Workshop (Oct 3)
- The 2019 Barbados Internet Governance Forum (Oct 4)
- The Smart Barbados Week Expo (Oct 1-4)



4 Key Stakeholders

- The Ministry of Innovation, Science & Smart Technology
- The Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- The Barbados International Business Association
- The Barbados Chapter of the Internet Society

The image features a collage of city night scenes. A large central image shows a busy street at night with many buildings and neon signs. Several smaller hexagonal frames are overlaid on the left side, each containing a different view of a city at night. One hexagon is empty, while others show various urban scenes. The overall theme is urban development and city life.

The 2019 Barbados IGF

About the 2019 Barbados IGF

- Free to the public
- Provided a platform for citizens, who may not have been able to attend the paid components of Smart Barbados Week, to participate and be heard.
- Highly focused on issues of development, inclusion and protection of the citizens who will ultimately decide the success of any national transformation initiative.
- Format:
 - Early morning plenary consisted of Introductory Remarks, About ISOC and the IGF and a presentation by the three winning teams of the Caribbean Girlz Hackathon, Barbados leg.
 - Two parallel tracks on the other agenda items
 - Evening plenary wrap up





5 Key Takeaways

Need for inclusive approach

- Whole of society approach – every stakeholder community needs to be engaged to drive transformation and should receive its benefits
- Solutions need to be people-centric – start from people and not from the tech
- Technologists should specifically seek input from non-tech-savvy persons in order to create solutions that work for everyone
- We cannot as a nation move to an online-only posture as this would disadvantage many people who do not have access to the internet and its services.



Need to improve digital literacy

Need to raise the level of digital skill across every demographic.

- Parents spoke about the need to be given the tools and training to allow them to monitor and manage their children's internet and smart device usage
- Educators spoke about the needing to be shown how to redesign how learning is conducted so that their online education is more than simply PowerPoint slides of their chalkboard notes
- Senior citizens, who are not used to thinking and acting in a digital-first paradigm need the training to be able to leverage online platforms



Need to maintain up-to-date Legislation

- Laws governing the digital space, such as the Data Protection Act need to be responsive because of the speed of evolution of the space
- The public needs to be further educated on what rights the law affords them with respect to the digital space and what their responsibilities are
- Mechanisms need to be put in place to allow the rapid enacting and refinement of those relevant laws



Need to re-imagine education

- Our education system needs to be reimagined to produce lifelong learners, entrepreneurs and content creators who can use all of the digital tools at their disposal
- This requirement will continue to grow as AI and automation reduces the amount of easily repeatable work available
- The presentations from the Caribbean Girlz Hackathon participants showed that given the right technology and entrepreneurial training, and exposure to the opportunities available, they could rapidly prototype solutions that addressed gender-based violence



There is power in collaboration

- ISOC Barbados could never have put together Smart Barbados Week, or an IGF of that scale on our own
- Different stakeholders have different audiences with whom they already have influence and whom they can bring into the dialog
- We included stakeholders representing the government, the private sector and civil society and in so doing created rich and meaningful discussions with diverse perspectives
- The collaboration for the event can be used as a basis for further collaboration to execute initiatives arising from it







Thank you