Broadband Forum 2011
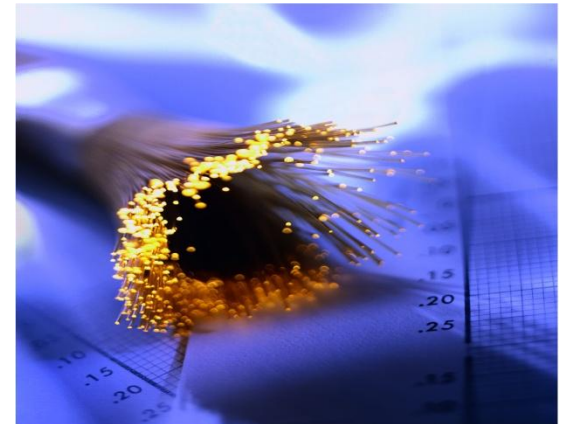
Broadband Development: Future for the Caribbean

Glenda Medford

medford.glenda@gmail.com

Where do we begin……

- Internet is integral part of our lives
- Technological advances driven by customers
- Demand for fast, always on broadband networks – anywhere, anytime
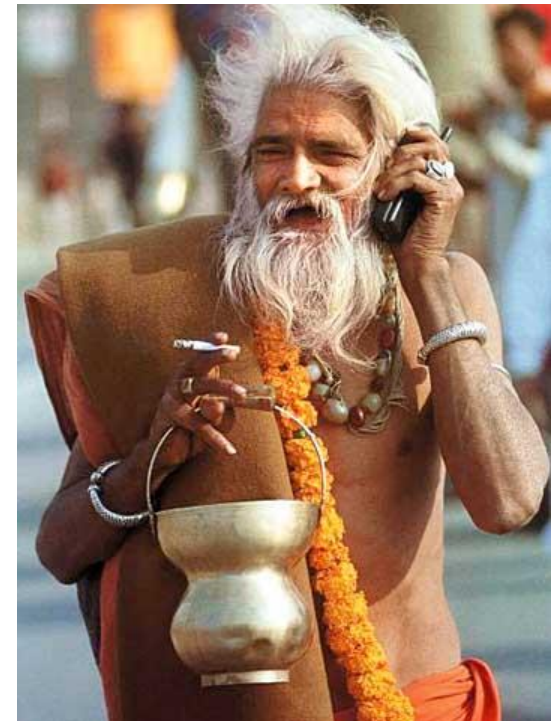
Global focus on broadband

- Urgency in achieving the Millennium Development Goals
- Broadband Commission established
- Country specific broadband policies developed
- Broadband can play role in recovery of economies
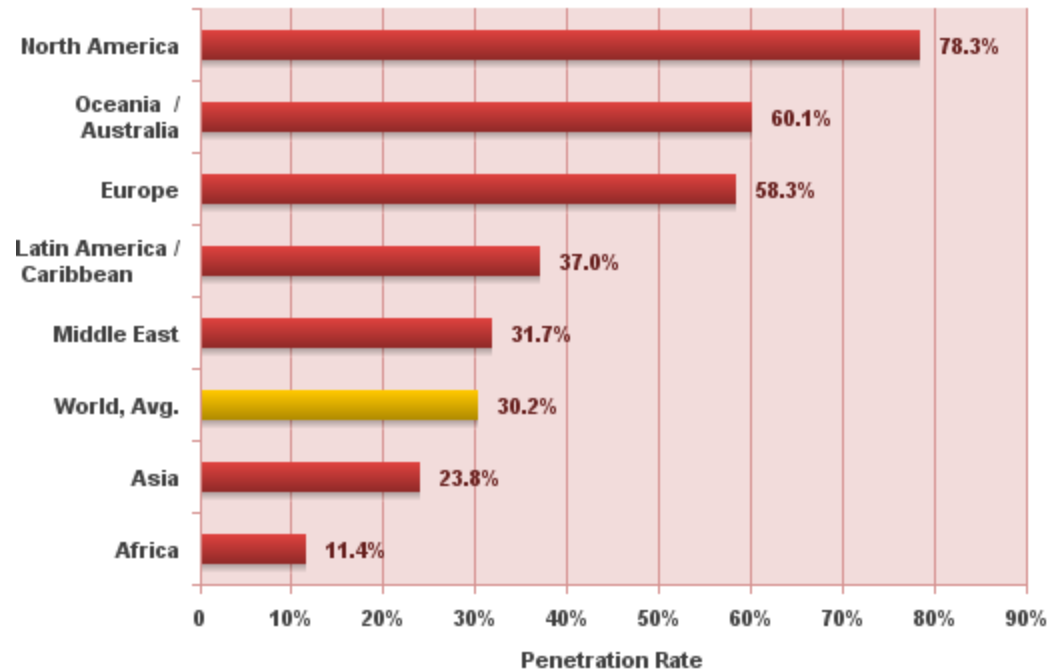
Bridging the digital divide

IDB

- Millennium Development Goals

- Empowerment

- Inclusion

Latin America/ Caribbean vs the Rest

World Internet Penetration Rates by Geographic Regions - 2011

Region	Penetration Rate
North America	78.3%
Oceania / Australia	60.1%
Europe	58.3%
Latin America / Caribbean	37.0%
Middle East	31.7%
World, Avg.	30.2%
Asia	23.8%
Africa	11.4%

Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldststs.com/stats.htm
Penetration Rates are based on a world population of 6,930,055,154
and 2,095,006,005 estimated Internet users on March 31, 2011.
Copyright © 2011, Miniwatts Marketing Group

CANTO and IDB Collaboration

- CANTO Connecting the Caribbean initiative
- IDB designing a broadband platform
  - Design and implementation of broadband plans and development of public policy
  - Strategic regulation to foster investment and competition
  - Infrastructure to achieve universality
  - Demand generation and capacity building

Where do we rank.....?

- Access

- Transmission speeds

- Prices

?

Power of broadband......

The World Economic Forum 2009 report stated that:

'ICT's ability to deliver an economic growth dividend is motivating. For every dollar invested in broadband (fixed and wireless) the US economy is expected to see a tenfold return. Faster broadband deployment in Europe could create one million jobs and growth of up to €850 billion through 2015. Raising broadband penetration in emerging markets to levels currently in Western Europe could add $300 to $450 billion GDP and create 10 to 14 million new jobs.'

World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report 2011-12

Country	Rank	Score	2011/12 rank against 2010 countries	2010/11 rank
Barbados	**42**	4.44	42	43
Trinidad and Tobago	**81**	4.00	81	84
Jamaica	**107**	3.76	107	95
Dominican Republic	**110**	3.73	110	101
Suriname	**112**	3.67	n/a	n/a
Belize	**123**	3.52	n/a	n/a
Haiti	**141**	2.90	n/a	n/a

Extract from report

Trends in the Industry……

- Broadband as a fundamental right
  - Finland, Spain, France, Estonia
- Every citizen entitled to one megabit per second broadband
  - Finland and Spain
  - Finland's goal is 100 megabit by 2015
- UK – 2megabit to all homes by 2012

Harness the Power of the Internet PEOPLE POWER!

Trends in the Industry……

- Use of policy and regulation
  - Broadband specific policies
  - Incentives for investment
  - Public – private partnerships

Some Regulatory Issues in Region

- Pro competitive policy
  - Incentivise investment and innovation
- Framework for digital economy ecosystem
- Competition laws
- Expansion of USO

Recommendations

Policy

- Whilst an overarching regional policy is appropriate, there is still a need for each country to carve out country-specific broadband policies. IDB can assist to develop these policies.

- With each country being at different stages of development, the broadband policies should identify penetration goals for that country to achieve by 2015. IDB can assist to develop these goals.

- Regulation of broadband must be predictable and promote competition and investment in the infrastructure. However there may be a need to legislate minimum speeds which must be available and broadband quality to be provided to consumers. Higher broadband speeds enable innovation and functionality that can benefit businesses, consumers, medical facilities etc. A more detailed analysis of global trends can be undertaken to assist the implementation of this approach. IDB can assist to develop undertake this analysis and develop the standards.

Recommendations

Policy cont'd

- Where not already in existence, universal service obligation must be applied to extend high speed, quality broadband to rural and unserved areas and to challenged or aged individuals, directly, or through community internet access points. Approaches to USO outlined in the ITU's 11th Global Symposium for Regulators Best Practice guidelines can also be considered. IDB can provide assistance in having these goals developed, not only in relation to the legislation but also on infrastructure requirements.

Recommendations

Government action/stimulus

- In preparing annual budgets, Government should seek to allocate funds which can serve as a stimulus for use of ICT in the key sectors – eg health, education, energy. IDB as part of the broadband platform could provide assistance to achieve these goals.

- Leadership by governments in the use and deployment of ICTs to enhance productivity e procurement, workflow management and provision of services to citizens. IDB could provide assistance under the scope of the broadband platform.

- Removal of taxes and duties on all consumer telecommunications devices such as PCs, laptops, i-pad, mobile phones. As part of the digital agenda and the implementation of broadband plan IDB could provide assistance on this matter too.

- Drive usage of broadband by entrepreneurs by providing special incentives for businesses which employ ICT in their business processes including e commerce.

Recommendations

IDB

Applications and content development

- Governments are encouraged to support the CANTO i-create initiative to drive innovation and creation of local content. Wide promulgation within countries and country specific activities are necessary.

- Explore using broadband networks for energy efficiency through intelligent systems and design. IDB can assist in providing research and consultants.

Recommendations

Capacity Building

- Establish centres of excellence in the region to teach high end IT skills to nurture innovation and develop skills in software and application development. An opportunity exists for the region to become a net producer of technology and solutions. The centres of excellence will support initiatives to attract investment.

Measurement/indicators

- There should be a consistent agreed set of indicators measured at least quarterly, including:
  - Percentage of households and enterprises with broadband access
  - Amount of time spent on the internet by individuals and for what purpose – email, social media, browsing, research, work, e commerce
  - Number of persons employed who use computers in their normal work routine
  - Number of enterprises engaged in e-commerce
  - Number of enterprises using ICT in their business processes
  - Impact of broadband usage in all key sectors and GDP

Recommendations

Collaboration

- The Broadband Forum should be convened annual to specifically review the progress of agreed actions

Thank You