

Note on the Compendium of Existing ICT and E-Government related Documents in the Caribbean Region

Following the “Conclusions and Recommendations” reached during the **UNDESA/CARICAD 4th Caribbean Ministerial Consultation and High Level Workshop on Public Sector Management: Strategies for E-Government(14-15 January 2003, Point Salines, Grenada)**,

in March 2003 CARICAD, with the support of DESA, started the compilation of a Compendium supposed to be comprising all relevant documents related to ICT and E-government in the countries of the Caribbean region (e.g. ICT and E-Government related reports, e-readiness surveys and methodologies applied, policy documents, strategies, agendas, action plans, skills enhancement initiatives, initiatives to build e-government strategic capacity, initiatives to promote the use of e-government and build e-government awareness, initiatives to stimulate private sector involvement, legislative reform for accommodating IT etc). The preparation of such Compendium was intended to facilitate a comprehensive review and inventory of documents concerning ICT and E-Government to easier further discussion and analysis. For this purpose, we both undertook an online research and solicited the cooperation of national authorities responsible for E-Government development, in order to allow the timely completion of this phase of the initiative aiming at the formulation of an E-Government Strategy and Action Plan for the Caribbean, as well as at the implementation of an effective Caribbean E-Government Network.

The idea was to use the analysis of the Compendium to compare strategic and sectoral objectives, basic features, issues and constraints at national level; thus allowing us to identify at what stage countries are in the development of a Government-wide IT strategy, and in the enabling of an environment to develop a national IC infrastructure to ensure that organizational capacity is maintained in order to sustain all core and support systems, which are derived from the strategy.

A total number of 23 countries and two regional organizations were contacted (i.e. CARICOM, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States):

- 8 of these countries belong to CARICOM
- 2 of these countries belong to the OECS
- 7 countries are members of both regional organizations
- 6 do not belong to any of the above mentioned regional organizations

For the time being, at regional level, documents covering all investigated areas were gathered for both the OECS and CARICOM (i.e. ICT readiness, methodology, initiatives, strategies and policies, and E-Government readiness, strategies and policies). At national level, most of the countries provided their National IT Strategies and Policy documents. Many others, for which policy documents at national level are not available, are members of at least one of the two above-mentioned regional organizations. We do not have documents, as yet, for 5 countries that don't belong to any of the two regional organizations. The ensemble of documents might be regarded as being quite representative, although a general observation should regard the fact that the documents are more closely related to ICT than to E-Government per se. In addition, there's a general lack of documents about ICT initiatives within the countries, which show very diversified levels of involvement in ICT and E-Government related issues at the policy level as well as more concrete activities are concerned.

General Table

Country Level Resources

Country	ICT Readiness	ICT methodologies	E-Gov Readin.	ICT Strategies and Policy	ICT initiatives	E-Gov Strategies and Policy
Anguilla *				X		
Antigua * +				X		
Bahamas +				X		
Barbados +					X	
Belize +						
<i>Bermuda</i>						
BVI *						
<i>Cayman Islands</i>						
Cuba				X		
<i>Curacao</i>						
Dominica * +	X					
<i>Dominican Republic</i>						
Grenada * +				X		
Guyana +				X		
Haiti +						
Jamaica +	X	X		X	X	
Montserrat*+						
<i>The Netherlands Antilles</i>						
St.Kitts and Nevis * +						
St. Lucia * +						
<i>St. Vincent</i> *+						
Suriname +						
Trinidad +	X			X		X

+CARICOM Member States

* OECS Member countries

Anguilla –

ICT Strategy and Policy Documents:

- ICT Agenda (with a part on E-Gov, p.3 not too detailed)

Antigua and Barbuda –

ICT Strategy and Policy Documents:

- ICT Agenda (with a quite extensive part on E-Gov p.14)

Bahamas –

ICT Strategies and Policy Documents

- Policy statement on E-commerce/Bahamian Digital ICT Agenda (with a part on E-Gov p.14, not too extensive)
- The Computer Misuse Bill 2003
- Data Protection Bill 2003
- Electronic Communications and Transaction Bill 2003

Barbados –

ICT Initiatives

- Brief on the Education Sector Enhancement Programme, EduTech 2000

Cuba –

ICT Strategies and Policy Documents

- Politica de Ciencia y Tecnologia
- Escenario Tecnologico Nacional
- Politica Para la Informatizacion Interna
- Politica Para la Informatizacion de la Sociedad

Dominica –

ICT Readiness Reports

- Analysis of the IT-subsector (includes a part on the methodology)

Grenada –

ICT Strategies and Policy Documents

- The Telecommunications Act 2000
- A ICT Strategy Action Plan 2001-2005 (very detailed part on the development of E-Gov in Grenada, p.48)

Guyana -

ICT Strategies and Policy Documents

- Guyana IT Policy – *Draft*
- National Development Strategy – Chapter 6, Information Technology

Jamaica –

ICT Readiness Reports

- Jamaica's E-Readiness Report (part on E-Gov, p.58; part on methodology p.3)

ICT Readiness Methodologies

- E-Readiness Assessment Methodology

ICT Strategies and Policy Documents

- A Five-Year Strategic IT Plan for Jamaica (extensive part on E-Gov p. 35)

ICT Initiatives

- IT Project

Trinidad and Tobago –

Readiness

- 2 assessment papers
 1. Survey on the utilization of IT by Households in the Republic of T&T by the NIHERST (info on the methodology, which should be included are missing)

E-government Strategies and Policy Documents

- National E-Commerce Policy Committee Report (mentions E-Gov, p. 7; reports survey methodology and work plan; appendix 1 includes a descriptive part on what should be done as for E-Gov, p.82)
- E-Government Unit created in 2001(central ideas of E-Gov strategy for TT; background, mission, goals, targets and projections of the Unit)

ICT Strategies and Policy Documents

- The Telecommunications Act 2001
- The Computer Misuse Act 2001
- Preparing the ICT Plan (mentioned the need of an e-readiness assessment)
- National Information and Communication Technology Plan now available on the Government website (<http://www.gov.tt/nict/>).

Regional Level Resources

Regional Organisation	ICT Readiness	ICT methodologies	E-Gov Readin.	ICT Strategies and Policy	ICT initiatives	E-Gov Strategies and Policy
OECS	X		X	X	X	X
CARICOM		X		X		X

Regional Level

ICT Readiness Reports

- ICT Needs Assessment Report for the OECS
- E-Business Capacity Development for the CARICOM (part on the methodology, p.5; country situational analysis: analytical framework of Country e-readiness and e-readiness of Member States, p. 21/26; a part on E-Gov, quite detailed)

E-Government Readiness Reports

- ICT Pilot Project Proposal for the OECS – annex 1 (Global E-Government Survey, World Market)

Sub-Regional E-government Strategies and Policy Documents

- Caribbean Policy Response to the Information Age - CARICOM (overview on some of the major activities undertaken by some Caribbean governments and regional organizations to seize the digital opportunity)
 1. Guyana
 2. Barbados (E-Gov)
 3. St. Lucia (E-Gov)
 4. Grenada (E-Gov)
 5. St. Vincent (E-Gov)
 6. Trinidad and Tobago (E-Gov)
- ICT Pilot Project Proposal for the OECS – annex 2 (10 questions on E-Government for leaders in Developing Countries)

Sub-Regional ICT Strategies and Policy Documents

- ICT Pilot Project Proposal for the OECS (relation to the E-Gov policy, p. 5)
- Final Report ICT Policy and Strategic Plan for the OECS (part on E-Gov, p. 34, pretty detailed identifies strategic moves)
- ICT policy Framework for the OECS
- CARICOM ICT Connectivity Agenda 2003
(8 Annexes on Assessment methodology, Planning, Infrastructure, Utilization, Content, Regulatory Framework, Performance Management)