

e-COMMONWEALTH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION

//JULY 2016

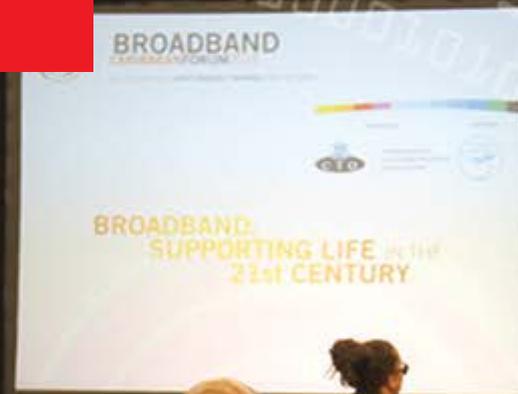
CELEBRATING
115
Years
1901-2016
FROM SUBSEA TO CYBERSPACE



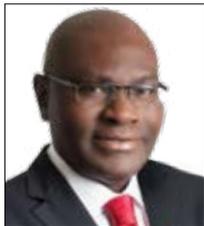
CTO SECRETARY-GENERAL DISCUSSES STRATEGIC DIRECTION WITH CARIBBEAN MEMBERS

// SECOND 2016 ICT REGULATION ROUNDTABLE TAKES
PLACE IN LONDON

// BROADBAND STRATEGY FOR SMALL ISLAND STATES: THE
EXPERIENCE OF COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA



//EDITORIAL



Shola Taylor
Secretary-General

Dear readers,

Aiming for universal broadband access is one of the CTO's six strategic goals and a key ICT goal for our member countries. With 5G anticipated by some to support mostly machine-to-machine communications, the challenge of rolling out the right technology at the right cost to achieve universal broadband access in each country remains to be fully addressed.

This month, we convened the well-attended Broadband Caribbean Forum 2016 on 14 - 15 in Port of Spain. I was particularly delighted and encouraged by the high-level participation from the region's policymakers which helped appreciate the peculiar concerns of small island nations for broadband. These concerns are many: political, infrastructural, financial, and regulatory to name just a few. I am most grateful for the contributions from the region's private sector and civil society in presenting solutions to address these concerns.

Above all, universal broadband inclusion will require a wider enabling applications environment, hence our decision to hold the first Commonwealth E-applications Forum in Kigali, Rwanda in 2017 where I hope many of you will be present. As a prelude to the Kigali event, we will be promoting the development and use of ICT applications for socio-economic development with a dedicated a session on e-applications at the forthcoming annual CTO Forum to take place on 12 - 14 September 2016 in Nadi, Fiji.

Also, for those of you who could not join us at the recent Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum held in London last month, I am pleased to say that you can now download the event report from our website. The report is a concise summary of priorities in key areas including broadband: the relevance of SDGs, wider issues such as literacy and content; the need for further liberalisation; the role of satellite; etc.

Finally, another of our six strategic goals is to coordinate Commonwealth coordination of international agendas, and I am pleased to confirm that the Commonwealth WTSA-16 Preparatory Meeting will take place in London on 17 - 19 August 2016 where you will have an opportunity to assess and help shape Commonwealth country positions on the WTSA-16 agenda. //

//RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Voice of the Commonwealth heard at global fora



At the Commonwealth ICT Ministers forum in June, ministers reaffirmed the mandate granted to the CTO to lead the coordination of the Commonwealth's engagement in the international ICT agenda. As the Commonwealth represents a unique subset of countries – large and small, well-endowed and less well-endowed, landlocked states and small island nations – gaining consensus on key issues relating to ICTs and telecommunications among Commonwealth countries can play a critically important role in fostering wider international agreement. Significantly, unlike regional organisations, the CTO's membership includes countries from every continent of the world. Coordination of Commonwealth views at global ICT meetings serves to infuse the Commonwealth's unique perspective into these important global discussions.

ICANN56 took place in Helsinki at the end of June and once again the CTO was there to host the Commonwealth Government Advisory Committee (GAC) meeting. Over 40 delegates were in attendance to learn about the ICANN GAC's priorities for Internet governance and members were encouraged to engage with the process by contributing regional and country views to the fora, briefing colleagues, staying informed of the issues and making sure their country's priorities are heard.

"It is vitally important that the voices of the Commonwealth are heard at the ICANN GAC," said Shola Taylor, CTO Secretary-General, who convened the meeting in Helsinki. *"I was extremely impressed by the engagement of the delegates at the Commonwealth GAC meeting and*

look forward to hearing more about their contribution to this Internet governance process."

At the Commonwealth GAC meeting, Mr Taylor also briefed delegates on the upcoming Commonwealth preparatory meeting for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16). The WTSA-16 is the apex meeting of the ITU Standardization Sector (ITU-T); it will take place in Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25 October – 3 November 2016. At this meeting Member States and Sector Members of ITU-T will define the work programme and structure of ITU-T for the next four years.

The CTO's WTSA-16 Preparatory Meeting will take place in London, UK on 17 – 19 August to provide not only a platform to examine different regional stances on key issues, but also an opportunity to reach consensus on agenda items on which a Commonwealth consensus might help reach agreement at WTSA-16.

"Following the success of our preparatory conference for the ITU's World Radiocommunication Conference last year, I am pleased to provide the opportunity for Commonwealth engagement with WTSA-16," said Mr Taylor. *"The CTO is committed to ensuring that the Commonwealth's voice is heard at these important international events and I anticipate a lively discussion with concrete recommendations for the WTSA-16 meeting in the autumn."*

For more information on the WTSA Preparatory Meeting 2016, please visit the CTO website at: <http://www.cto.int/events/upcoming-events/commonwealth-preparatory-meeting-for-wtsa-16/>

//RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

CTO Secretary-General discusses strategic direction with Caribbean members

CTO Secretary-General, Shola Taylor, has recently concluded a mission to the Caribbean where he took part in the Broadband Caribbean Forum 2016 and met with members and stakeholders from the ICT sectors of Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica.

At a meeting with the Honourable Maxie Cuffie, Minister of Public Administration and Communications for Trinidad & Tobago, the two officials discussed their priorities and how the CTO and the ministry can work together to pursue Trinidad & Tobago's ICT ambitions.

Minister Cuffie, in extending a warm welcome to the Secretary-General, noted the CTO's initiative to conduct a global study on over-the-top operators (OTTs). *"I am extremely interested to learn of the CTO's strategic plan for the next four years and how it is relevant to the development of the country's ICT sector,"* Minister Cuffie remarked. *"I would also like to commend the Organisation for the timely hosting of a*

conference on broadband, with a focus on the specific needs of the Caribbean."

Mr Taylor also met with senior executives from the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad & Tobago, Office of Utilities Regulation of Jamaica, the Jamaica Employers Federation the Spectrum Management Authority of Jamaica, Digicel Jamaica and officials at the Jamaican Ministry of Energy, Science & Technology.

"This is my opportunity to discuss the ICT priorities of both Trinidad & Tobago and

Jamaica," said Mr Taylor. *"I have presented the CTO's Country Action Plans to my colleagues and look forward to working with them in the future."*



Shola Taylor and the Honourable Maxie Cuffie, Minister of Public Administration & Communications, Trinidad & Tobago

//APPLICATIONS

E-commerce and the need to look beyond broadband

Today millions of homes around the world have at least one computer at home and billions of us carry mobile phones, smartphones, tablets or wearables with tremendous data storage, processing power and connectivity capability. And, thanks mostly to the Internet, half of the world's population are benefitting from this information revolution.

By 2018, Western Europe and North America are expected to account for over half of global business-to-consumer e-commerce (53 per cent), followed by Asia and Oceania (37 per cent) and Africa (2.5 per cent) where the use of online social networks dwarfs the region's e-commerce. Sadly, however, those largely excluded from benefiting from the information economy are more pronouncedly in developing countries.

As highlighted by UNCTAD in its 2015 Information Economy Report, major obstacles to the growth of e-commerce in developing countries include inadequate

ICT infrastructure and use, unreliable and costly power supply, low levels of ICT literacy or greater reliance on cash. Despite these challenges there are good reasons to be hopeful about these countries: connectivity is improving, due partly to the deployment of national and international fibre-optic networks and new applications, platforms and services are lowering barriers to entry and stimulate willingness to conduct business online.

The CTO is committed to promoting universal and affordable broadband. As part of this effort, we share the recommendations of the Broadband Commission, including promoting co-deployment and infrastructure-sharing of telecom infrastructure and co-investment to reduce prices; ensuring sufficient availability of quality spectrum to deploy mobile broadband networks; and enabling the development of local and relevant broadband applications and content.

For most developing countries where less

than five per cent of homes have Internet access, including less than two per cent with fixed broadband, we can expect fixed broadband penetration to remain low for some years to come. So their burgeoning e-commerce industry will have to rely on a strengthened mobile infrastructure and a more competitive mobile industry. In those countries the path to universal broadband in the last mile will be predominantly mobile rather than fixed. It is therefore crucial that spectrum is optimised to take this inevitable scenario into account and enable the rapid expansion of broadband networks and services.

Finally, although broadband access is critical to the growth of e-commerce, broadband alone cannot be the silver bullet to all countries' e-economy challenge. For broadband to make a real difference, many other areas of economic and social development also require significant policy shifts. //

//EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Broadband Caribbean Forum 2016



Secretary-General Shola Taylor during the opening of the Broadband Caribbean Forum, 14 July 2016

Group photograph of the delegates present at the Broadband Caribbean forum 2016, 14 - 15 July, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

The CTO's Broadband Caribbean Forum 2016 hosted by the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad & Tobago (TATT) took place in Port of Spain on 14 – 15 July. The event was attended by over 160 delegates from 14 countries from the Caribbean and beyond.

As acknowledged in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, ICTs are radically changing the world in which we live and contributing positively to development and economic growth. Access to broadband is integral to meeting the sustainable development goals, and the Forum heard how Caribbean countries have embraced the need for affordable broadband access.

“Throughout the Caribbean, broadband is proving to be an enabler of innovative solutions in areas such as e-government, e-business, e-education and e-health,” said Shola Taylor, CTO's Secretary-General. *“The CTO are delighted to facilitate discussions on how to address the challenges the region faces in achieving universal broadband access at the Broadband Caribbean Forum 2016.”*

The opening ceremony was addressed

by dignitaries from across the region, including the Honourable Gregory Bowen, Minister of Communications, Works, Physical Development, Public Utilities and ICTs, Grenada, who highlighted the importance of the Caribbean Regional Digital Development Agenda and the need to have a Single ICT Space in the Caribbean – both initiatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

In a keynote address to the opening ceremony, the Honourable Darcy Boyce, Minister of Energy, Telecommunications, Immigration and Customs, Barbados, expanded on the importance of the Single ICT Space in the Caribbean: an ICT-enabled borderless space that fosters economic, social and cultural integration for the betterment of Caribbean citizens. The Single ICT Space, he said, must create an environment for investment, entrepreneurship, development and innovation and stated that *“there is more that unites us, as a Caribbean people, than separates us”*.

The Broadband Caribbean Forum 2016 went on to examine, not only the challenges to broadband access, but the opportunities an increasingly connected Caribbean can provide.

Topics such as a strategic approach to, and financing of broadband rollout were discussed along with creating a digital Caribbean, digital entertainment and educational access to all.

“There is a growing need of individuals, businesses and government agencies to achieve connectivity,” said Mr Gilbert Peterson, Chairman of TATT. *“TATT is pleased to be associated with this Forum as our organisation is committed to the view that all communities within the Caribbean region should have access to affordable and reliable broadband facilities.”*

“Given the compelling economic and social benefits of high-speed access to the Internet the CTO is determined to maintain our efforts to encourage investment in broadband infrastructure and services for the benefit of all people of the Commonwealth,” concluded Mr Taylor. *“I would like to thank our partners, the Government of Trinidad & Tobago, TATT and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union for facilitating this event, and look forward to progressing this discussion at the upcoming Broadband Asia Forum 2016, taking place in Malaysia in September.”*//



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION
FORUM 2016
12 - 14 SEPTEMBER 2016, NADI, FIJI

Taking place in the margins of the 56th Council Meeting of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, the Forum is the premier ICT conference of the Commonwealth where senior policymakers, regulators and industry leaders from across the Commonwealth and beyond gather to examine the most topical issues in the ICT sector.

//CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Second 2016 ICT regulation roundtable takes place in London



Delegates attending the workshop at the CTO headquarters on 4 - 8 July 2016, in London, UK.

Board members of ICT regulatory and other specialised agencies from ten countries took part in the CTO's second Regulating ICTs Roundtable for 2016. The event took place on 4 - 8 July 2016 in London.

Changed from a workshop to a roundtable, the event registered participants from Bangladesh, Cameroon, Cayman Islands, Ghana, Mauritius, Montserrat, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

"This roundtable series is a key pillar of our four-year strategy to assist member countries in their efforts to improve their regulatory environments for ICTs," said Shola Taylor, Secretary-General of the CTO as he welcomed the participants.

The first roundtable for 2016 took place in April, with participants from Bangladesh,

Botswana, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago and the United Kingdom. Content delivered was focused on addressing current issues



"This event is very helpful in understanding decisions in other countries and learning from them"

Mawethu Cawe, Acting Chairperson of the Board of Directors at the Universal Services & Access Agency of South Africa



participants and their organisations face, and experience sharing among participants contribute to solutions.

For Mawethu Cawe, Acting Chairperson

of the Board of Directors at the Universal Services & Access Agency of South Africa, "this event is very helpful in understanding decisions in other countries and learning from them."

"Visiting and talking directly with executives in organisations such as Ofcom and BT was one of the best parts of the programme for me," said Beverly Mendes, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Works & Labour of Montserrat.

Sessions were delivered by experts from the ICT sector describing the key challenges faced by the sector and proposing solutions that can be easily implemented.

The roundtable series also includes a number of industry visits to London-based organisations. //

//UPCOMING COURSES 2016

Diploma in Telecommunications Management Studies

15 August - 23 September 2016, Olifantsfontein, South Africa

Satellite Communications Regulations

19 - 22 September, Cyberjaya, Malaysia

Regulating ICTs Roundtable,

17 - 21 October 2016, London, UK

Spectrum Pricing and Auctions Workshop

31 October - 1 November 2016, Yaounde, Cameroon

To register, or for more details visit www.cto.int

About the Programme for Development Training

The CTO's Programme for Development and Training (PDT) was created in 1985 as a mechanism to provide technical expertise in ICTs to stakeholders across the world by facilitating cooperation amongst members. Since then, the PDT has been one of the Commonwealth's largest capacity building programmes, with over 3,600 bilateral, technical cooperation projects delivered in over 30 countries.

The PDT provides specialised ICT capacity development training programmes to Ministries, regulatory agencies and ICT operators around the world, to help support the growing demands and challenges they face. Delivered in over thirty countries, the PDT provides bespoke professional training, consultancy and advisory services in policy and regulation, business development and management and technology.

// TECHNICAL SUPPORT & CONSULTANCY

Broadband strategies for small island states: The Commonwealth of Dominica's experience



From left: Fargani Tambeayuk and Dr Martin Koyabe of the CTO with the Honourable Kelver Darroux, Minister of Information, Science, Telecommunications & Technology, and Sylvester Cadette, ITU Programme Officer at the launch of the National Broadband Strategy of The Commonwealth of Dominica in April 2016

The recently concluded CTO Broadband Caribbean Forum in Trinidad and Tobago examined in depth the important role broadband plays in development. It is clearly acknowledged that GDP increases in line with increased broadband penetration levels of a country. The Commonwealth of Dominica aspires to achieve this with the development of its National Broadband Strategy, currently on-going with technical support from the CTO in collaboration with the ITU.

The ICT sector in Dominica continues to grow and expand. It is experiencing a significant growth in mobile penetration of nearly 129% with two main operators Flow and Digicel. The operators started offering 4G services in 2014-2015 and while the PSTN/landline penetration is just under 30%, Internet uptake increased up to 60% by 2014-2015. It is currently offered by Flow and Marpin 2K4, with a fixed broadband penetration of about 15%.

Some challenges in Internet access remain, which Dominica is continuously striving to address. The recent revision of the Electronic & Communications Bill 2016 by The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL)

is a good example by the regional regulator aimed to address regulatory challenges such as infrastructure sharing, consumer protection and harmonising competition.

Access and affordability still remain a significant issue; however this will be eased with the increase in infrastructure investment through the Universal Service Fund, which will ensure broadband supply side matches the ever increasing demand. The Commonwealth of Dominica is also focusing its efforts to address cybersecurity and cyber crime threats.

The CTO is pleased that significant progress has been made in the development of Dominica's National Broadband Strategy. On-going peer review of the draft strategy is taking place and the draft strategy will soon be made available to the public in Dominica to submit comments before the final strategy is compiled and submitted to the ICT Ministry for adoption.

The CTO would like to acknowledge and thank the government of the Commonwealth of Dominica and the ITU for the contribution and facilitation in developing the National Broadband Strategy for Dominica.//

CTO assist Swaziland with legal aspects of unbundling Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation

CTO consultant Professor Ian Walden visited Swaziland as part of the first phase of a project to assist the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology (MICT) with the legal aspects of unbundling the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC).

During his visit Professor Walden held discussions with MICT and carried out consultations with stakeholders. Task one of the project, which involved an assessment of the Legislative Framework of Swaziland, was also completed.

As part of the project deliverables, the CTO will carry out three consultative workshops to obtain the views of the stakeholders. The workshops are provisionally fixed for the week of 12 September 2016 and it is expected that the CTO will finalise the legislation based on the outcomes of the workshop and submit draft legislation to MICT by 30 September 2016.

"The CTO is pleased to assist our member Swaziland in this project," said Dr Martin Koyabe, Manager, Technical Support & Consultancy. *"The successful completion of this project will mark another milestone in the wide range of expertise that the CTO provides to its members and we look forward to finally deliver the project outcome by the end of September 2016."*//

CTO welcomes our new Associate Consultants



Stephen A. Bello
Principal Partner of Kayafas Konsult Limited



Philip Cross
Independent Consultant, self-employed

For more information on how to become a CTO Associate Consultant please contact **Dr. Martin Koyabe** at m.koyabe@cto.int

//MEMBER NEWS

Ghana's regulator hosts ICT symposium to celebrate 20th anniversary

As part of a series of activities celebrating their 20th anniversary, the National Communications Authority (NCA) of Ghana convened a two-day symposium on Telecommunication Regulation on 18 - 19 July 2016. The symposium brought together regulators and experts from across Africa and beyond, including Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Peru, Australia and the UK. The CTO also contributed two experts to the debate which examined the role of regulations in ICT development.

Speaking on the importance of ICT in activating growth and prosperity in the region, NCA Director-General, Mr William Tevie, said: *"Today, no one can deny the fact that ICT has incredible potential to improve development outcomes in both developing and developed worlds. All*

three pillars of sustainable development: economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection need ICT as a propeller to make development in those various sectors achievable."

The symposium was designed to foster partnerships and enable the exchange of ideas on best practices to guide regulators at a time when telecom operators are continually innovating to meet increasing consumer demands. Among the topics under discussion was the impact of over-the-top (OTT) services on the ICT sector and regulators. Dr Martin Koyabe, CTO Manager, Technical Support & Consultancy gave a presentation outlining the CTO's plans for a study on OTTs and encouraged delegates to the symposium to participate.

Nowshard Yehiya, Marketing Executive

for the CTO also contributed to the debate on broadband strategies, which were discussed along with topics such as improving rural communications, the challenges and opportunities of infrastructure sharing and whether digitalisation has redefined the boundaries of market definition.

"The CTO would like to congratulate NCA on its 20th anniversary," said Dr Koyabe. *"The role of the regulator in the fast-paced world of ICTs is increasingly important and so this symposium is a timely input into the debate. The CTO would also like to congratulate NCA on the award for the Best ICT Policy and Regulatory Initiative, which the organisation won as part of the Commonwealth ICT & Industry Awards in June 2016."*

Kenya Safaricom drops roaming charges by up to 99 per cent

Kenyan mobile operator Safaricom has announced that, following successful negotiations with its global network of partners, it has reduced roaming charges for calls and data for its subscribers by up to 99 per cent for over 200 networks across the world. The operator said its customers will be able to enjoy reduced data roaming rates at the rate of Sh14 per Mbps in over 52 countries, as well as make calls at reduced rates. "Our new roaming rates progress our deliberate strategy to continuously invest in optimizing our customers' experience in order to provide the best experience on our network," said the company's chief executive

officer Bob Collymore. In China for example, Safaricom subscribers roaming on China Mobile will now be charged Sh50 to call back home and enjoy a low of Sh10 per minute to call within China, down from the former rate of Sh360 and Sh130 respectively. Data pricing will fall to Sh14 per Mbps while roaming on China Mobile and China Unicom, down from the previous rate of Sh1,900.

The new rates will be applicable to both pre-pay and post-pay subscribers with customers able to select their network of choice in the destinations that they travel to based on the rates on offer. //

Avanti Communications and Avonline Broadband launch superfast 30 Mbps satellite broadband in the UK

Avonline Broadband, a UK telecom services company, and Avanti Communications Group plc, a leading provider of satellite data communications services in Europe, the Middle East and Africa announce the nationwide launch of a new superfast 30 Mbps satellite broadband service for the UK. The company has said that the new 30 Mbps service is the fastest satellite broadband product available at low cost to consumers anywhere in

Europe, and is designed to bring universal superfast broadband to everyone in the country. Families and businesses in rural British communities continue to be frustrated by slow or non-existent broadband services and continued inability to deliver fibre to the most isolated locations. Fast, reliable satellite broadband based on the latest British technology, such as the service launched, has 100% coverage of the UK and is affordable and available to those communities now. //

Facebook's Aquila completes first test flight



CREDITS: FACEBOOK

"The internet provides information, opportunity and human connection, yet less than half the world has access. We're proud to announce the successful first test flight of Aquila, the solar airplane we designed to bring internet access to people living in remote locations. This innovative plane has the wingspan of an airliner but weighs less than a small car and flies on roughly the power of three blow dryers — incredible!" the company posted on its own Facebook page. //



BROADBAND ASIA FORUM 2016

21 - 23 SEPTEMBER 2016, KUALA LUMPUR

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Organised by



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION

Hosted by



To **speak, exhibit** or **sponsor** this event, contact **Robert Hayman** at events@cto.int or call +44 20 8600 3800.

cto.int/events/upcoming-events/



COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION FORUM 2016

12 - 14 SEPTEMBER 2016, NADI, FIJI

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

ICTs FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Broadband strategies for small island nations

Successful cybersecurity strategies

IoT and regulatory environments

e-applications

Organised by



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION

Hosted by

The Government of Fiji

To **speak, exhibit** or **sponsor** this event, contact **Robert Hayman** at events@cto.int or call +44 20 8600 3800.

cto.int/events/upcoming-events/