

ICT Regulatory Framework

Eastern Caribbean
ECTEL Member States

- (a) What is the status?
- (b) What are the lessons?

Stages of ICT of Regulation

- 1. Public Information Technologies
- 2. Extending Communications and Access
- 3. Adding Value to ICT Technologies
- 4. Convergence – the ultimate four-play

ECTEL Model

- ECTEL is multi-island, independent.
(DOM, GRE, SKN, SLU, SVG)
- ECTEL policy goals – competition and innovation; universal access; economic development
- Sector regulation – licensing, numbering spectrum management, DNS
- Harmonized solutions

Facilitating Competition

- Interconnection Regulations – greater powers of intervention
- Cost-based models for Interconnection rates (LRIC models)
- Co-sharing and “right of way” regulations

Facilitating Access

- Non-static approach to parameters of Universal Service (voice to multi-media)
- Price regulation addresses dominance and facilitates progressive adjustments
- Trials and pilot projects for US – testing/proving the regulatory framework

The Results

- Liberalization – high capacity/low prices, choices for transport and access
- Network (12) and ISP (15) licenses awarded to private providers since 2002, none to Governments.
- Other NTRC licenses/authorizations – broadcast, submarine cable, resellers.
- DNS management unresolved

Embracing ICTs

- Harmonized frameworks for policy and regulations
- Proof of policy concept projects – “secondary school as incubator” “community as test case for innovations”
- Revision of Spectrum plan for 700 MHz – Reserved spectrum for “development”

Other Enabling ICT legislation

- Electronic Transactions & E-Evidence
- Computer Misuse
- Interception of Communication
- Data Protection
- Freedom of Information

Progress of new ICT Legislation

- E- Transactions passed or in progress
- Freedom of Information – in progress
- Computer misuse – high priority
- Stand alone Legislation
- ICT omnibus Act – low priority

Identifying the “Lessons”

- Harmonized approaches can work
- Preferences for “existing” incubators
e.g formal education infrastructure
- Gaps in new US parameters -continuing
analysis: economic and market efficiency
- Strengthening “anti-competition”
frameworks.
- Regulations for ICT Mainstreaming

Conclusions

- Regulatory framework has facilitated ICT expansion
- Current Reviews/modifications to address convergence
- Outstanding matters – content, access to value adding CPEs; national priorities; cost of new regulatory frameworks.
- Increase research capacity for Regulators

END

Thank You!

Comments and Questions.

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