PRESENTATION

Opportunities and Challenges for Regional Integration
Mechanisms in the field of Digital Economy
In the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
By
Philip McClauren
CARICOM Secretariat
12 October 2017
San Salvador, El Salvador

CONTENT OF PRESENTATION

- Background to the Community Integration and CSME Regimes

- Component of the Digital Economy

- CARICOM e- Commerce Regime – Built –In- Agenda

- Scope and Coverage

- Digital Economy and CARICOM Online Platforms

- Opportunities and Challenges for Integration of Online Platforms

- Further Development of the Digital Economy in CARICOM

Community Pillars

Economic Integration

- Single Market
  - Goods
  - Services
  - Skilled Nationals
  - Establishment
  - Capital
- Single Economy
  - Common/Harmonised Investment Policy
  - Single Currency
  - Common monetary policy

Foreign Policy Coordination

- External

Functional Cooperation

- Education
- Health
- Common Services

Security

- Advanced Passenger information system
- Advanced cargo information system
- CARICOM Travel card

CARICOM - OBJECTIVES

- Article 6 of RTC
  - Improved standards of living and work
  - Full employment of labour and other factors of production
  - Expansion of trade and economic relations with third States
  - Enhanced functional cooperation including more operation of common services and activities

COMPONENTS OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

- e-business infrastructure (hardware, software, telecoms, networks, human capital, etc.)
- e-business (how business is conducted, any process that an organization conducts over computer related networks)
- e-government (how governments provide services to the public over computed related networks)
- e-commerce (transfer of goods, for example, purchasing a laptop or perfume online)

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

❑ **CARICOM E-Commerce Policy – Article 239 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC)**

▪ Taxing e-commerce and Custom Duty Memorandum (WTO)

▪ Competition Law and Policy and Consumer Protection Issues

▪ Protecting Intellectual Property

▪ Regulations and Enforcement

▪ Cyber Security

CARICOM ICT STRATEGY

❑ Regional Digital Development Strategy

▪Virtualizing the business sector

▪Using ICTs as a tool to enable better provision of public sector services in the region

▪To make the populace more ICT literate

▪To develop the ICT infrastructure in the region

▪To use ICT to develop the innovation engine of the region

CHALLENGES

❑ E-Commerce and ICT

▪lack of a regulatory framework

▪high cost of infrastructure

▪limited financial instruments

▪inadequate knowledge of what can be gained

▪lack of stakeholder buy-in and unpreparedness of businesses to participate

OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS

- Efficiency in the delivery of services and conducting business both at the national and Community levels

- Improvement in data capture and statisitical information

- Reduction in time spent for processing applications and conducting business.

- Opportunities for improving the delivery of services, e.g. in health, education and distance learning, public procurement, etc.

- Capacity building and mutual cooperation in disaster response coordination and tele-medicine.

CARICOM ONLINE PLATFORMS

- ❑ CSME Application Processing System (CAPS)
- ❑ CARICOM Interactive Marketplace and Suspension Procedure (CIMsuPro)
- ❑ Community Public Procurement Notice Board (CPPNB)
- ❑ Regional Online Companies Registry System (ROCRS)
- ❑ Labour Market Information System (LMIS)
- ❑ CARICOM Rapid Alert System for the Exchange of Information on Dangerous (non-food) Consumer Goods (CARREX)

BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

❑ **CSME Application Processing System**

▪ State of the Art technology for online application and electronic processing of CARICOM Skills Certificates for the ten (10) categories of Skilled Nationals.

❑ **CARICOM Interactive Marketplace and Suspension Procedure**

▪ Online shopping place from products of CARICOM origin and a platform for managing the suspension of the Common External Tariff

❑ **Community Public Procurement Notice Board**

▪ Single common IT platform and workspace for procurement advertisement, contract award notifications and other procurement opportunities and information

BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

❑ **Regional Online Companies Registry System (ROCRS)**

▪ Harmonization of key elements which include regional business registration standards to enhance the ease of doing business

❑ **Labour Market Information System (LMIS)**

▪ Platform for providing employment and labour statistics and management of labour migration in the CSME

❑ **CARICOM Rapid Alert System on Dangerous (non-food) Consumer Goods**

▪ Secure and live portal and workspace for the CARREX National Networks (CNN) to share information, alerts and notification on dangerous goods in the markets in Community

Future Development in the Digital Economy - CARICOM

- Further elaboration of the ICT Strategy in CARICOM – US Trade Negotiations

- Development of the E-Commerce Policy in CARICOM and for the Multilateral Negotiations - WTO

- Interconnectivity of the Community Procurement Notice Board to existing and future e-procurement systems in Member States