



**Welcome by Mr. Selby Wilson, Chairman of the Board,
Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago at the
launch of the UWI/TATT Cyber Security Awareness Launch,
Wednesday July 23rd 2014**

- Professor Clement Sankat, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Campus Principal, St. Augustine Campus, The University of the West Indies.
- Members of the Board, of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
- Mrs Alicia Hoyte – Clinical Psychologist
- Members of the UWI Cyber Security Awareness Project Team
- Management and staff of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen it is my pleasure to welcome you to the launch of this Cyber Security Awareness Project which is a joint initiative of the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus and the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.

Approximately two months ago a Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Professor Clement Sankat, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Campus Principal, St. Augustine Campus, The University of the West Indies and the TATT's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Cris Seecheran signalling the formal commencement of this project.



This project ladies and gentlemen, is the brainchild of the staff the Campus Information Technology Services Department, of The University of the West Indies and forms part of the institution's strategic plan for the period 2012/2016. Earlier this year TATT agreed to fund the project that would be beneficial to our thousands of children and young people.

Participation in this initiative is aimed at increasing awareness of children and young people about the dangers that exist in cyberspace. Ladies and gentlemen I am sure you will agree with me that the Internet is an amazing technology, which effectively connects people and a range of devices, making common the term – the Internet of things.

According to statistics released by the International Telecommunications Union, by the end of 2014 there will be almost 3 billion Internet users. This figure accounts for approximately 40% of the world's 7 Billion population.

Ladies and gentlemen, Trinidad and Tobago stands solidly within that mix. According to statistics released by TATT a few weeks ago approximately 51 out of every 100 persons in Trinidad and Tobago had either a fixed Internet subscription and/or a mobile Internet subscription at the end of 2013.

This and other statistics related to Trinidad and Tobago's telecommunications and broadcasting sectors are available in the Annual Market 2013 - an annually compiled TATT publication available online on the TATT website – www.tatt.org.tt

Ladies and gentlemen I cannot think of another technology in history that has accelerated development in so many areas - ranging from space exploration, education, health care delivery, food production, to entertainment and simply



allowing grandparents to closely follow growth paths of grandchildren residing thousands of miles away beyond our geographical borders.

Internet use has impacted interconnectedness among human beings on a scale never before seen. I dare say the invention of the Internet is as important to human development as was the discovery of fire and invention of the wheel.

The Internet in its short twenty-year lifespan has suffered massive misuse. We cringe as we hear of cybercrimes particularly those in which children are the victims.

Children today are negatively impacted by so many factors, in some countries, malnutrition, natural disasters, wars, child slavery, and the list can go on and on. While TATT is unable to shield children in this country from some of this country's societal ills, it can do its bit to protect children from online predators.

Ladies and gentlemen one of TATT's the crucial roles Trinidad and Tobago that is outlined in the Telecommunications Act is to facilitate the orderly development of a telecommunications system that ...and I quote "serves to safeguard, enrich, and strengthen the national, social, cultural and economic well-being of the society".

Once there is the potential for consumers in the market to suffer harm through indiscriminate and immoral use of the internet, then TATT is mandated is to put in place initiatives to protect consumers of telecommunication and broadcasting services.

Protection of our children and young people in cyberspace is therefore an integral role of TATT as regulator of Trinidad and Tobago's telecommunications and broadcasting sectors.



In 2008 when the International Telecommunication Union chose the theme “Protecting Children in Cyberspace” for the commemoration of World Telecommunications and Information society Day, TATT developed a range of related audio visual and print material including a 45 minute video titled “Cyber Danger”. This video continues to a valuable source of online protection information for children, parents and guardians, not only in Trinidad and Tobago, but around the Caribbean, as this organization has received requests for copies of the programme from some from our Caribbean neighbours.

TATT also continues to respond to requests for Cyber Security lectures from schools, youth groups and libraries around the country.

The staff of Campus Information Technology Services Department, of The University of the West Indies has also been receiving requests for assistance in providing students with much needed cyber security information.

Today the forces have been joined and at this event we formally launch the UWI/TATT Cyber Safety Awareness Project. The primary objective is to maximise the safety of Trinidad and Tobago’s primary and secondary school students and their parents and guardians by promoting awareness and building knowledge of cyber-safety and the risks associated with the inappropriate use the Internet.

The use of the Internet along with other Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), are increasing in use globally and of course here in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2013 the Telecommunications and Broadcasting sectors generated an estimated TT\$5.5 billion (US\$0.9 billion) in 2013, which as a percentage of GDP equates to 3.1 percent. This represented a 4.0 percent increase in total revenues generated by this industry compared to last year.



So ladies and gentlemen, there is growth in the local telecommunication and broadcasting environment and wherever there is growth, there is the need for vigilance and protection of the most vulnerable from negative effects.

At this event we will hear more about this important project from Professor Sankat and Mrs Claire Craig. We will also have the privilege of viewing the project website and a related dramatic presentation that will be used in the campaign.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Telecommunications Authority I must thank The UWI for embarking upon this commendable project and further, for choosing to partner with TATT. This initiative is much needed and we at TATT are pleased to be associated with this project that we are absolutely confident, that it will benefit many children and their parents. Thank you.

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