



**OPENING REMARKS BY MR SELBY WILSON,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AUTHORITY OF  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE LAUNCH OF WTISD  
2014 AT THE OFFICE TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
AUTHORITY FRIDAY MAY 16TH 2014.**

Ms. Ingrid Seerattan, Ministry of Science and Technology's  
Deputy Permanent Secretary

Members of the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of  
the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to the launch of the Telecommunications Authority of  
Trinidad and Tobago's (TATT) World Telecommunications and  
Information Society Day 2014 initiative.



Every year, TATT commemorates WTISD with an initiative linked to the international theme. This year, however, is special as 2014 marks ten years since this organization became operational. Hence we thought we would do something special to mark WTISD this year.

Let's do a quick brain teaser. I'm sure many of you checked your email a short while ago on your cell phones or at the office before you came to this event. I am also sure that the majority of you sitting here today have broadband Internet service.

Now, think about what it would be like for a group of persons all of whom reside in different countries, thousands of miles away from each other using broadband Internet service with ICT devices, such as your smart phone, tablet, laptop or desktops, for the development and execution of a specific project, within a given timeframe. You will recognize the ease with which group planning and discussion towards execution can take place.



Now, for those of you who are able, throw your minds back, way back to twenty or thirty years ago and compare the capacity of that same group to execute the same project over the same distance within the same timeframe twenty or thirty years ago – its incomparable.

What made the difference? (pause) ...Technology!

Thus it is clear Information and Communication Technologies allow persons to do a lot more work, a lot faster, over any distance, toward personal, national and global development.

For it to work well it necessary is to build systems that are robust and sustainable connecting the world through the most advanced and innovative means of communication, such as Internet and mobile broadband which now allow us to be in touch anytime, anywhere with friends, family, colleagues and businesses.

It is therefore no surprise that the International Telecommunications Union, the United Nations agency responsible for ICTs has this year chosen “Broadband for



Sustainable Development” as its theme to commemorate World Telecommunications and Information Society Day 2014.

You will in a short while be hearing from the ITU’s Secretary General, Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré on the theme’s philosophy.

In commemoration of this year’s theme, TATT is launching today its project titled “*Using Broadband for Sustainable Development in Trinidad and Tobago*”. The project will entail the provision of funding of up to TT\$40,000.00 to a maximum of five organisations to develop initiatives utilizing broadband technology for sustainable development within their communities. The overall cost of this initiative therefore is \$200,000.00

These initiatives must be designed to fall into one of the following five areas, and must utilize Internet broadband technology:

1. Crime and Law and Order
2. Agriculture and Food Security
3. Health Care Services and Hospitals

4. Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness and Innovation
5. Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development.

Ladies and gentlemen these five areas are identified in both the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's *Medium Term Policy Framework 2011 to 2014* and the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development's "*Working for Sustainable Development in Trinidad and Tobago*, for sustainable development in this country.

The National ICT Vision is to create "*A dynamic knowledge-based society, driven by the innovative use of ICTs to enhance the social, economic and cultural development of the people of Trinidad and Tobago*"

Thematic area four of that plan – Infrastructure Development – focuses on enhancing accessibility, usage and governance by addressing gaps in the underlying national hardware and software infrastructure, particularly with respect to telecommunications and broadband.



The plan recognises that widespread access to high-speed broadband services throughout the country as a significant driver of economic growth, job creation, and development; and a critical component of GoRTT's broader objective of building a knowledge-based economy.

In the recent past, TATT has been involved in the development of a number of other initiatives that will serve to deepen the use of Broadband including working with providers towards the development of a local Internet Exchange Point or IXP. We are currently at the start of the evaluation stage of Proposals for Enhanced Data Services in the 800 Mhz; 1900 Mhz; and 700 Mhz spectrum bands. These all form part of TATT's active involvement with the Ministry of Science and Technology in the implementation of the SmarTT plan with regard to the development of the Broadband backbone for this country.

Our 2014 WTISD project, is expected to support these initiatives as TATT anticipates the development of community based activities that will inter alia enable development and dissemination of local content and encourage participation in ICTs especially in underserved areas. In approximately one



week, a Request for Proposals advertisements will be appearing in the newspapers inviting Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to submit proposals from which the five proposals one from each of the areas outlined earlier will be selected.

Projects will be selected based on their ability to meet criteria set out by TATT in the RFP.

The aim is to encourage and assist these NGOs financially as they embark upon or complete these developmental projects which will ultimately impact on and improve the quality of the lives of the communities in which they are based and by extension impact on citizens in Trinidad and Tobago.

Ladies and gentlemen we ought not to forget why we are here today, to formally launch this event. Remember what we do today will give us the future we want tomorrow!

Ladies and gentlemen I thank you.