


Girls in ICT 2022

Theme: Access and Safety



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Once upon a time

In the Beginning...



- With over 50 years in the Public Service, and 70 years in Trinidad and Tobago, I have seen the evolution of ICT and the role it plays in our day-to-day lives.
- Many of you may be watching today's proceedings from a device that can fit in your hand but in the not so recent past:
 - The only way to communicate across island was via postal mail;
 - There used to be an operator who had to connect your call to another person on island;
 - People would leave home to visit friends and relatives and there was no way to know if the person reached safely until they came back home;
 - We had to line up to make a phone call when we went out!



In the Beginning...



- Transformation is an inherent part of our reality
- Vision of the National ICT Plan – *fastforward* –(2003):
“Trinidad and Tobago is in a prominent position in the global information society through real and lasting improvements in social, economic and cultural development caused by deployment and usage of information and communication technology.”



As one of the first Girls in ICT...



I worked with some of the best and brightest minds in the country to:

- Liberalise our Telecommunications Sector
- Bring in broadband technologies

This led to us being able to:

- Create digital learning, digital banking, and digital business platforms
- Increase mobile penetration and smart device possession
- Create the infrastructure to make appointments online (passports, driver's licenses, companies' registry)
- Order food, groceries, pharmaceuticals online and have it delivered to our door
- Keep in contact with our friends and family as we move through the country, the region, even the world



It's Not Uncommon



The Women Who Changed The Tech World

Ada
Lovelace



Grace
Hopper



Hedy
Lamarr



Annie
Easley



Mary
Wilkes



Adele
Goldberg



Radia
Perlman



Katherine
Johnson



Karen
Sparck-Jones



Elizabeth
Feinler



Now as a Grandma in ICT...



... **Watch** with wonderous fascination, the rapid evolution of the Sector

... **Pay** close attention to how the GoRTT has always tried to empower women, myself included, and given trust in us in levels of great decision-making authority

... **Have** continued on the journey of digital transformation with the Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDT)

... **Creating** the opportunities for all of our young, and old to work, partner and collaborate with the MDT in our revolution of digital transformation of our Government, Economy, and Society

... **Observe** with pride how our MDT girls in ICT have been flourishing in meaningful ways so much so that I want you to hear from just A FEW of them...



Key Takeaways



1. Your role in ICT is not limited to your chosen educational path;
2. Your role in ICT is not limited to your gender – break the stigma!;
3. ICT is a mechanism through which we can elevate the lives of our citizens;
4. Technology is evolving so there is always opportunity to innovate.



Call to Action



- All of us will be in ICT as it is the way of the world!

What do you see as your role?

1. Create a space for everyone in the digital society .
2. Be a facilitator of change – be an ally for the technology averse to help them understand its value.
3. Create opportunities for economic development that is driven by digital technologies.



Questions and Answers



Thank You!

