



Developmental Work in Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Statistics



“ BETTER STATISTICS, BETTER MANAGEMENT, BETTER OUTCOMES ”



Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat In Collaboration with The United Nations (UN)

15th OCTOBER 2009



OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- **Background on ICT Sub-Committee on Statistics**
- **Developmental Work**
 - Definition of the Scope of the ICT Sector
 - Themes, Issues and Concerns of Relevance to the Region – considerations of indicators



Background on the ICT Sub-Committee

- One of six (6) sub-committees to the Regional ICT Steering Committee.
- 2 Meetings of the Sub-Committee so far:
 - 1st Meeting – Formulation of Draft Terms of Reference and Development of a Work Plan
 - 2nd Meeting – Definition of the Scope of the ICT Sector and Discussions on Themes, Issues/Concerns, in a Regional Context



Developmental Work



Definition of the Scope of the ICT Sector

Rationale for Defining the ICT Sector:

- Measurement of Contribution to the Economy (Production & Trade);
- The harmonisation and comparability at National, Regional and International Levels (guided by appropriate international standards with adaptations as required).



Definition of the Scope of the ICT Sector, cont'd

(OECD) Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS) has proposed three guiding principles that support the identification of “candidate industries”:

The **products** of “candidate industries”:

1. Must be intended to fulfil the function of information processing and communication including transmission and display.
2. Must use electronic processing to detect, measure and/or record physical phenomena or conduct a physical process.



Definition of the Scope of the ICT Sector *cont'd*

The **services** of “candidate industries”:

3. Must be intended to enable (i.e. facilitate) the function of information processing by electronic means.



Definition of the Scope of the ICT Sector *cont'd*

The OECD definition of the scope of the ICT sector covers:

- a) ICT activities in manufacturing
- b) ICT services activities

Based on the ISIC and CPC



Definition of the Scope of the ICT Sector *cont'd*

- The sector definition was complemented by the **ICT goods** definition in **2003** and the **ICT services** definition in **2006**.
- The first was based on the 2002 version of the Harmonized System (HS) used for trade statistics; and
- The latter on the latest version of the United Nations Central Product Classification (CPC).



Definition of the Scope of the ICT Sector *cont'd*

CARICOM's definition of the scope of the ICT sector:

- Based on guiding principles of the OECD;
- Special focus on production and trade in ICT service activities;
- Differed from the OECD definition by including section of ***Content Industry*** engaged in transformation of products for electronic distribution;



Definition of the Scope of the ICT Sector *cont'd*

CARICOM's definition of the scope of the ICT sector *cont'd*:

- Also Differs from the OECD definition by including retail sale of ICT Goods that are accompanied by services incidental to the sale of those goods



Definition of the Scope of the ICT Sector *cont'd*

Consideration of the Broader Impact of ICT:

- Reach of ICTs goes far beyond its influence on the economy, e.g. use of ICTs in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- The scope of ICT was therefore defined to incorporate social, environmental and other economic impact.
- Work is ongoing in this area (use of Classification Systems).



Themes, Issues/Concerns and Corresponding Indicators

- Development of Themes, Issues/
Concerns and Indicators to inform Policy:
 - Indicators relevant to other Sub-Committees;
 - Indicators proposed by the Statistics Sub-committee;
 - International Indicators



Themes, Issues/Concerns and Corresponding Indicators, cont'd

Some of the themes and issues include:

Health

- E-Health
- Awareness of websites for Medical assistance/ diagnosis
- Health & Environmental Issues resulting from ICTs and Use of ICTs
- Use of technology to reduce processing time of prescriptions, patients, statistics

Poverty Alleviation

- Too many of our citizens live in poverty and cannot readily access or take advantage of the benefits of ICTs

Culture/Creative Industry

- No. local online tour operators (tourism)



Themes, Issues/Concerns and Corresponding Indicators, cont'd

Themes and issues *cont'd*:

Business

- Inadequate usage of ICTs in Trade in Goods and Services
- Usage in Banking Industry
- ICT Industry Development (Production)
- Service delivery and quality
- Using ICTs as a Marketing Tool
- Access to and reliability of electricity supply
- Some persons who have access to ICTs do not use them



Themes, Issues/Concerns and Corresponding Indicators, cont'd

Some of the initial considerations on “Indicators” include:

Health:

- No. of health care institutions with internet access
- No. of health care facilities with a Local Area Network (LAN)
- No. of health care employees using internet for research or referencing
- Proportion of population using computers with specified (related) diseases
- No. of institutions using “electronic charts” to deliver services to patients

Poverty:

- No. of Programmes for ICT in under-developed areas

Culture/Creative Industry

- No. of websites with promotional info (tourism)
- No. local businesses with web-presence
- No. of websites with local content in local languages/dialects



Themes, Issues/Concerns and Corresponding Indicators, cont'd

Initial considerations on “Indicators” *cont'd*:

Business:

- No. of businesses using ICT
- No. of Consultants online
- No. of banks offering tele-banking and % customers using service
- No. of customers satisfied with quality of service
- Type of information available online
- No. of businesses in specific industries and service provided
- No. of businesses with access to electricity
- Reasons for not owning, accessing or using ICTs



Implications

- ICT is a rapidly evolving area – there is need to keep methodology updated;
- Useful in monitoring whether there are any changes in the economic structure of countries re ICT activities as well as trade (goods & services) since these can impact development/poverty alleviation;
- ICT Sector contribution to GDP is critical.



Implications Cont'd

- ICT in service delivery by governments/ private sector such as in Agriculture, Health and Education, Distribution in general;
- ICT Occupations - contribution to employment;
- Barriers as well as enabling aspects of ICT usage on the individual, household, businesses- small/medium; young/old; men/women etc.



DISCUSSION



THE END



CARIBBEAN STATISTICS DAY

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