C@ribNET UPDATE

Carlton A Samuels
C@ribNET Project Manager
THE MANDATE

• CHOG:
  – **Acknowledged** the threat of social exclusion posed by the digital divide and the real presence of a “digital hole” in the Caribbean,
  – **Mandated** the development and implementation of a Regional Research and Education Network for the Caribbean (C@ribNET);
  – **Anticipates** the crucial role that C@ribNET could play in regional Functional Cooperation
  – **Endorsed** CKLN as a CARICOM Project in March 2004 and the vehicle to coordinate and manage the development of C@ribNET
  – **Proposed** that CKLN be transformed and become a regional intergovernmental agency to further institutionalize the C@ribNET initiative

CKLN
Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network
PURPOSE of C@ribNET


• Facilitate connection of regional TEIs to universities and other resources in Europe, the United States and elsewhere for research, collaboration and knowledge sharing.
PURPOSE of C@ribNET

- Support for the **CSME** and strengthening Functional Cooperation amongst CARICOM Member States

- Bridge the digital divide in the region to achieve social cohesion of Caribbean peoples
C@ribNET COMPONENTS

1. Assist CARICOM Member States in the development of National Education and Research Networks (NRENS)

2. Provide an advanced, high bandwidth, high availability backbone connecting all CARIFORUM countries, which includes the Dominican Republic

3. Develop the Business Model and Regional Mechanism for sustainability of C@ribNET
C@ribNET TIMELINE

• Third Week of May 2009
  – Begin development of C@ribNET implementation strategy and business plan

• First Week of June 2009
  – Consultant deliver draft work programme

• Second Week of June, 2009
  – Country consultations for input to regional strategy + Business Plan and scoping the NRENs to begin
C@ribNET TIMELINE

• Fourth Week of October 2009
  – Country consultations completed and preliminary report + draft Business Plan delivered

• First Week of December 2009
  – Workshop to present and finalize Business Plan plus operating strategies for C@ribNET held
C@ribNET TIMELINE

• January 2010
  – Physical regional & national network implementations to begin

• July 2010
  – Regional backbone operational and tied into GEANT, INTERNET$_2$ and redCLARA

CKLN
Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network
C@ribNET: FUNDING PARTNERS

- CARICOM Governments
- EU
- IADB
- OAS
- Private entities
- Friendly Governments
C@ribNET: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

- Consultations on Membership Models
- Access agreements to NRENs/RRENs
- Consultations on existing applications and availability to C@ribNET stakeholders
- Lessons learned from operations and other pertinent matters
- Group procurement possibilities
THANK YOU