

January 2012

C@ribNET ... On Track!

The regional network, C@ribNET is on track to be up and running by the end of February 2012. According to Mr. Eriko Porto, CKLN's Consultant for Network Engineering Services, everything is proceeding smoothly, telecommunication circuits commissioned by LIME for the C@ribNET backbone are now complete. These circuits, assembled in a ring topology, link Trinidad and Tobago, Miami, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

With the backbone in place, the international circuits connecting C@ribNET to other Global Networks - Géant, Internet 2 and RedCLARA - are also complete.

"We are following a detailed schedule for deploying equipment for the access nodes in the respective countries, and activation is expected early in January. So we are on target, and C@ribNET should be ready for use in the region by February 2012."

NREN Development in the Region

National research and education networks (NRENs) are formal entities that use advanced networking technology and services for research and education, knowledge transfer as well as international cooperation.

The CKLN is actively addressing the lack of NRENs in the Caribbean, as these will be the major users of C@ribNET. Over the past few months, the Tertiary Units of the respective Ministries of Education in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Jamaica have begun engaging the relevant institutions in order to develop the nucleus for NREN establishment in the respective countries. These Units have taken on the responsibility of coordinating and working with institutions such as universities, community, technical and other colleges, libraries, as well as health and culture organisations. They are moving ahead with the necessary governance, financing and registration processes with the intention of having their NRENs registered in early in 2012.

CKLN's next major initiative in this arena is to facilitate the countries in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to start

conversations with relevant institutions in member states towards developing an OECS REN. Initial feedback from government representatives in the OECS, as with the other countries, indicates strong support for this process.

More information on NREN development can be found on the CKLN website.

CKLN Participation

The latter part of 2011 proved to be very busy for CKLN. Our staff and consultants participated and presented at a number of meetings, conferences and other events, contributing to and sharing with international, regional and national partners. CKLN participated in the following:

- Caribbean Centre for Development Administration, CARICAD's Knowledge Management Meeting in Barbados
- The Caribbean Association of National Communication Networks, CANTO, meeting in Miami
- CaribErasmus - in Trinidad & Tobago
- CLARA's Communications and Public Relations Meeting for Networks - Uruguay
- Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions , ACTI, 2011 Conference
- University of the West Indies - all campuses
- Jamaica NREN Development Meeting
- Meetings with the Technical representatives of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- EduVision Conference: "Sustainable Innovations: New Opportunities for Education and Business Collaboration" - Jamaica

CKLN looks forward to sharing with existing and new colleagues and partners in 2012.