

# DYNAMIC COALITION OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES IN THE INTERNET ECONOMY

## ANNUAL REPORT

Pacific and Caribbean Annual Reports presented  
to the DC-SIDS session of the Global IGF, Berlin, Germany, 28 November 2019

Presented by DC-SIDS co-Chairs:

Maureen Hilyard, President, Cook Islands Internet Action Group (remotely) and  
Tracy Hackshaw, Chair-Elect, Trinidad & Tobago Multistakeholder Advisory Group (on-site)

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### **Pacific Report to the Dynamic Coalition of Small Island Developing States in the Internet Economy.**

**Maureen Hilyard:** President, Cook Islands Internet Action Group; Chair, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC, ICANN); Board Secretary, DotAsia Board of Directors; Board Secretary, Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society; Member of the Public Interest Registry (.org) Advisory Committee (PIRAC); Diplo Foundation IG Graduate.

2019 has been an active year for Pacific involvement in the internet economy from the perspective of the organisations in which I and my Pacific colleagues are involved. What we first demonstrated is that originating from small island communities in the Pacific does not restrict one's opportunity to become a leader within large international organisations like ICANN which manages and allocates domain names and IP addresses globally. I was very honoured that my colleagues on the [At-Large Advisory Committee](#) of ICANN elected me to be their Chair for 2019, and again for the upcoming year. It has enabled me to use my organisational management skills which I did by distance learning from Rarotonga through Massey University in New Zealand.

My Cook Islands colleague, Pua Hunter, was also elected at the recent ICANN meeting to be a regional co-Chair for the [Government Advisory Committee \(GAC\)](#). She is already the Chair of the GAC's Underserved Regions Committee. Such leadership roles have also been achieved by others from SIDS in other internet-related organisations to show that being from small islands does not necessarily mean that we will go unnoticed if we are prepared to be active in our commitment and passion for what we are attempting within and for our regions.

The [Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society](#) got a boost at the elections last year, when 4 former PICISOC Board leaders returned to the Board, to try to rejuvenate and boost its membership to become more active within their Pacific communities. The Board has re-established its website and started populating it with local articles about successful IT related activity on the more active islands – particularly in Fiji where many leading Pacific organisations hold their events. The greatest success for us has come about through successful women in IT who have written about their achievements and put them on our website.

One notable success has been a NZ Unitech graduate from Nauru, Brancia Itsimaera who is the only woman working in the area of IT on her small island. She now has a Bachelor of Computing Systems degree. This is not an easy achievement in anyone's world but when you come from a small island developing state and you are a woman, this is particularly significant.

It was good to see several members of the Pacific community attending the [APRICOT 2019 meeting](#) in Daejeon, South Korea. They were participants in the technical sessions and also as Fellows. Maureen Hilyard, President of the [Cook Islands Internet Action Group](#) and Chair of the At-Large Advisory Committee reported on the activities of the At-Large community of ICANN to the regional [AP-Star](#) community. She also attended the [DotAsia](#) Board meeting as a Director, along with other members of the [Asia Pacific Regional At-Large Organisation](#) (APRALO) leadership team who are also Directors on the Board. As the Chair of the ALAC, Maureen also attended the three ICANN meetings held in [Kobe, Japan](#) (March), [Marrakech, Morocco](#) (June) and [Montreal, Canada](#) (October).

During the [Asia Pacific Regional IGF](#) which was held in July in Vladivostok, Russia, PICISOC was represented by two Board members, Maureen Hilyard of the Cook Islands and Anju Mangal of Fiji. We picked up a new recruit, James Ah Wai from Samoa, who although a first-time attendee of any IGF event, took to his speaking tasks like a duck to water. He came from a background of general interest in internet governance, and soon after his return to Samoa took on the role of President of their newly formed the [Samoan Information Technology Association](#).



1. James Ah Wai (Samoa), Maureen (Cook Is) and Anju Mangal (Fiji) in Vladivostok, Russia (in July)
2. Maureen Hilyard (Cook Is), Save Vocea (Fiji) Jackson Miake (Vanuatu) and Emani Lui (Niue) at Nethui, Wellington, New Zealand (in October)

Several Pacific participants also attended the gathering of the internet community of New Zealand at their [Nethui](#) at their national museum, Te Papa in Wellington. The highlight was the presentation given by the Prime Minister. Jacinda Ardern, as she explained the safety and security developments that the government has now incorporated into the system following the devastating attack on the Muslim community in Christchurch earlier in the year and the impact of social media on the event. This action against those of a different religion and culture impacted on the diverse communities that make up the population in New Zealand, including those of us from the Pacific who have always felt safe and secure in our adopted homeland.

One significant event for Pacific school students this year was the participation of 11 countries from the Pacific region in the [FIRST Global Challenge](#), an international Olympics-style robotics event established three years ago to encourage children to pursue science and engineering careers. FIRST stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology". Samoa finished first of the Pacific Islands contingent with a ranking of 26 out of 193 countries, Cook Islands came second of the Pacific participants in a very creditable 30<sup>th</sup> place for their first time in the competition.

The Cook Islands recently established a [Centre of Excellence in Information Technology](#). This is a joint collaboration project of Government of India and the Government of Cook Islands to offer specialized training programmes in the field of ICT to the citizens of Cook Islands, but each programme is customised to meet the needs of the local business community. This is a major move forward for international collaboration where the outcomes of the donorship are

specifically beneficiary-country-centric. The Centre is based at the USP Campus on Rarotonga.

Our biggest achievement this year was the [landing of the Manatua Cable](#) on Rutaki Beach on Rarotonga, bringing faster and hopefully less expensive internet to our Cook Islands. This is a joint venture involving a loan from ADB, a grant from the New Zealand government, and the remaining funds from the Cook Islands. The cable connects Tahiti in French Polynesia and Western Samoa, with spurs to Rarotonga and Aitutaki in the Cook islands and also Niue, on the way. This photo has the Prime Minister, Henry Puna, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Mark Brown, of the Cook Islands pulling the cable in with members of the Board of Avaroa Cable Ltd which is the company which will manage the cable activities on Rarotonga.



**Left to right:** Dr Ranulf Scarbrough, Chief Executive Officer, Avaroa Cable Ltd; Ms Tatiana Burn, Chair of the Board, Avaroa Cable Ltd; Cook Islands Deputy Prime Minister Honourable Mark Brown; Cook Islands Prime Minister Honourable Dr Henry Puna; Aitutaki Mayor Tekura Bishop

## **Caribbean Report to the Dynamic Coalition of Small Island Developing States in the Internet Economy.**

**Tracy Hackshaw**, Director and Chair-Elect, Trinidad and Tobago Multistakeholder Advisory Group (TTMAG); At-Large (Latin America and Caribbean) Representative, 2020 ICANN Nominating Committee (2018-2019); Research and Teaching Faculty - Diplo Foundation (Internet & Digital Policy, Internet Governance; Founding Vice Chair (2011-2017) and Chair (2017-2019), Internet Society Trinidad & Tobago Chapter.

The Trinidad and Tobago Multistakeholder Advisory Group (TTMAG ; <https://mag.tt/>) convened the third annual Trinidad and Tobago Internet Governance Forum (TTIGF) on January 25th, 2019 from 9.00-1700 at the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Westmoorings, Trinidad and Tobago. The theme of TTIGF2019 was “*The Internet of Trust*” in keeping with the International Internet Governance Forum 2018. There were 85 face-to-face attendees including panellists, special invitees and TTMAG Directors, and 270 views of the livestream via YouTube.

The TTIGF 2019 featured three panel sessions as well as an Open Forum:

- Caribbean Data Protection Regulations (CDPR)
- Cultural Factors in the Caribbean Affecting Trust & Privacy for Digital Security
- Using Technology to Increase Trust in Public Institutions

The meeting report and recordings are available at <https://igf.tt/trinidad-and-tobago-internet-governance-forum-2019/>

### **GUYANA**

The Ministry of Public Telecommunications, in collaboration with the ITU has recently completed a skills training programme for local web developers to develop applications with features to facilitate access by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The University of Guyana is currently exploring the possibility of integrating the training programme into the Computer Studies curriculum. Part of the overall support the Ministry of Finance is also granted VAT exemptions for PWDs purchasing smartphones and related devices.

The Ministry of Public Telecommunications via its agency the National Data Management Authority is in process of providing internet access to over 150 communities in the Hinterland areas some 250+ miles away from the Capital City, Georgetown. The overall goal to provide connectivity to close to 300 hinterland communities in the south of Guyana. The Ministry is also conducting trainer the trainer sessions to begin the process of ICT training at the community level. .

The Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED) Ministerial meeting in November agreed to propose to the Caricom Heads of Government that a combined approach be made to the regional telecommunication firms to eliminate roaming charges throughout the Caribbean region.

National Roundtable discussion to begin in December on the development of eCommerce legislation and the draft National ICT strategy. The roundtable discussions are intended to reflect the views of the Private Sector, Academia and Civil Society

The Internet Society St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chapter convened the 2nd Internet Governance Forum on April 12, 2019 under the theme, “the pressing need for security of the

Internet of Things (IoT)". It was held at the SVG Community College, targeting the student who attended the college.

**The key discussion points were the following:**

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) with IOT devices

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) with IOT devices drives the reason why the IoT devices should be secured. AI is known as the third phase of digital evolution. It is utilised in many areas and platforms such as Google AI, Amazon Echo, Facebook, elevators that interact with occupants to detect safety, smart cities to interface with people living in the city and drones now have the ability to move around obstacles.

2. IoT and Policing

The need to use innovative technology to solve crime is paramount. Technology is important in the transformation of the police force in St. Vincent the Grenadines. Hence, the police have an important part to play in the security of the IOT by sensitizing the public of internet safety and integrating technology to solve crime and ensure public safety. IoT will provide real time information of licenses of vehicle owners and license plates and also will provide a link to databases used for criminal investigations.

Benefits of integrating IOT in law enforcement include the digitizing of data, increasing the ability to identify suspects and solving problems faster and finding ways to work smarter and harder. It will uncover issues before they arise and become widespread.3. Securing devices  
Several challenges in securing devices: were discussed. These include:

- Critical functionality
- One attack can be replicated across all devices
- Security assumption-there is a myth that embedded devices are not target of hackers
- Devices deployed are not easily updated or patched
- Long life cycle of embedded devices is typical longer than PC or consumer devices
- Proprietary industrial specific protocols

Security requirements must take into consideration the cost of security, economic, social, environment consequences. Security must be considered in early stage of device designs. Security features that should be considered include: secure boot, security code update, data security, user authentication, secure communication, protection against cyber attacks, intrusion, detection and security monitoring, embedded security management, device tampering detection.

## **CARIBBEAN.GIRLS.HACK DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING**

The Caribbean.Girls.Hack – 2019 Hackathon (CGH), celebrates the ITU Girls in ICT Day, giving hundreds of girls in High School and Universities a 2-month immersive and interactive experience in the use of technology to address SDG issues affecting them in the Caribbean. This year participating countries included Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Supporting the global Girls in ICT movement, empowers girls and young women, giving them the confidence to pursue ICT studies and careers, and fosters a more dynamic technology sector, providing extensive benefits for companies and our overall economies at large.

SheLeadsIT-Caribbean Girls Hack is a member of the ITU EQUALS Skills Coalition and will continue to push forward with EQUALS initiatives seeking partnerships to implement initiatives to bridge the gender divide across the region.

To date, SheLeadsIT-Caribbean Girls Hack has achieved a 600% growth in 3 years, over 3500 participants across 6 countries (including Guyana) participated, using technology to build

innovative products including websites, mobile apps, short films & videos, podcasts as well as learning about robotics and drone technology. Through virtual features students heard from female role models in technology from Google, LinkedIn, NASA, Facebook, Web Foundation, Microsoft and others, inspiring them to look beyond conventional career roles and to take full advantage of the new opportunities offered by the digital revolution. Here are the highlights:

**2019 videos:** Trinidad: <http://www.looptt.com/content/watch-saghs-girls-dominate-caribbean-girls-hack-2019>

Jamaica: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DrRvxHVIFnvGxCAg1zdg2bweO00NnBGu>

## **2018**

**Video:** <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1PVQRIsHEGRsB9835JQRqHSI11U5KrORM>

## **Caribbean Regional Hackathon To Date**

### *Key facts:*

- Over 3500 participants across 6 Caribbean countries
- Over 60 Schools, Universities and Colleges
- Activity challenges using multiple ICT tools to address specific regional issues including gender-based violence, cyber-bullying, environmental management and climate change and resilience
- 29 Sponsors/Supporters/Partners from key private sector entities, public sector and academia
- Over 80 Technology Mentors
- 65 Local, Regional and International role model Technology Virtual Speakers

### *Highlights:*

- **SheLeadsIT-Caribbean Girls Hack (CGH) member of the ITU EQUALS Skills Coalition**
- CGH Alumni 2019 to be featured as the exclusive Youth in Caribbean Disaster Management Speakers using tech in climate change solutions created at CDEMA Conference December 2019
- CGH Barbados Winners featured as exclusive youth speakers at Smart Barbados IGF and ISOC Barbados Conference (October 2019)
- CGH Alumni 2019 featured as the exclusive youth speakers presenting tech solutions at UNECLAC Subregional preparatory meeting of the XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (June 2019)
- CGH Alumni 2019 Winner receives prestigious Microsoft Scholarship Grace Hopper Award, as one of ten chosen worldwide, attending Grace Hopper Celebration Conference (October 2019)
- 3 Hackathon Alumni selected and participated in the Huawei Seeds of the Future focused on developing local ICT talent, enhance knowledge transfer in the telecommunications sector, and encourage regional participation in the digital community (August 2019)
- Trinidad teams met with the President of Trinidad and Tobago Ms. Paula-Mae Weekes with regional partner RSC Tech Clubs
- Google technical training webinars, Google Experts Onsite Townhall Chat with students and Google Prizes
- LinkedIn virtual trainer/speaker, IBM Trainer, ToonBoom Animation trainers
- Facebook & Microsoft speakers Onsite Townhall Chat with students
- Private sector activities using Virtual Reality, Digital Puzzles, Robotics and Drones
- Tech Expo gave students first hands-on experiences with gaming, snapboards, robots, cybersecurity, green screens etc.

**More successes since 2017:**

- Trinidad & Tobago winning team hackathon product won a Launch Rocket local tech start-up competition with IADB prize of US\$10,000
- Spectrum Management eGov Jamaica paid 2019 summer internships (5 students)
- Hackathon winning team (Trinidad) placed in the top 50 at Microsoft International Tech Start-Up competition 2018
- Students secured valuable summer Tech internships with private sector partners (2018)
- 3 permanent job placements including Design Engineer from the Hackathon summer internship program with a private sector awards sponsor in Jamaica

## SEVEN TECHNOLOGY PIONEERS HONOURED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO CARIBBEAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE

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BY GERARD BEST  
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**PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad. May 3, 2019**—Seven of the region’s leading technology advocates were formally recognised for their outstanding service to the Caribbean at a special awards ceremony to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF).

Melford Nicholas, Minister of State and Information, Antigua and Barbuda, and President of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), presented Bernadette Lewis, Secretary General of the CTU, with a Special Recognition for Distinguished Service Award for her initiation and leadership of the CIGF.

Nigel Cassimire, Lance Hinds, Jacqueline Morris, Carlton Samuels, Dev Anand Teelucksingh and Bevil Wooding also received CIGF Excellence in Internet Governance Awards for their pioneering work in supporting regional and global Internet governance.

“We believe that we should be in the room whenever decisions are made that affect us in the Caribbean,” said Samuels, a Jamaica-based consultant in information and communications

technology at Carlton Samuels and Associates, who received the award for his extensive continuing contribution to Caribbean Internet-related development.

Hinds, a businessman, civil society advocate and special advisor to the Ministry of Public Telecommunications in Guyana, and Morris, a university lecturer and gender rights advocate, were recognised for their role in the At-Large Advisory Committee of the Internet Corporation Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The pair, together with Samuels and Teelucksingh, were instrumental in the formation of the Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organisation, ICANN's first regional end-user organisation.

Wooding is Caribbean Outreach Liaison at the American Registry for Internet Numbers, and Chief Knowledge Officer at Congress WBN. He was recognised for his work in regional technology education, youth outreach, establishing Internet exchange points, and spearheading initiatives such as the Caribbean ICT Roadshow, the Caribbean Network Operators Group, the Caribbean Peering and Interconnection Forum, Apex justice technology solutions and BrightPath Foundation digital content programs.

"You just do what you have to as a labour of love for the Caribbean," said Cassimire, Telecommunications Specialist at the CTU, who accepted the award for outstanding leadership in advancing Caribbean Internet governance.

The formal ceremony was held on April 30 at Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain, as part of a weeklong series of events held by the CTU to mark the thirtieth anniversary of its formation. The CTU is hosting the fifteenth Caribbean Internet Governance Forum, or CIGF 15, at the same venue on May 2 and 3.

<https://spiceislander.com/?p=14373>