



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION  
UNION Telecommunication Development Bureau  
*and*  
Caribbean Telecommunications Union

*ITU Centres of Excellence Training Workshop on*

**Bringing Broadband to Rural Areas**

*8-9 December 2009, Paramaribo, Suriname*

*Draft Agenda*

**Brief Description**

Today broadband, as the principal means of delivering ICT applications, is being considered by an increasing number of policy makers and regulators around the world to be a basic telecommunications service. Current universal access and service (UAS) policy for telecommunications and ICTs emphasizes the need for access to broadband applications in order to achieve the goals of economic development and social inclusion for all communities. Experience has shown that the arrival of basic telephony (in all forms, such as public payphones, fixed residential or mobile lines) and broadband Internet constitutes a critical take off point in a community's path to economic and social development.

This workshop will provide a step-by-step approach for regulators, policy makers and universal access program administrators for bringing broadband access to rural areas based in the practical experience gained in the Dominican Republic and Peru.

This training workshop is organized jointly by the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the ITU, and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)

**Tuesday 8 December 2009**

<b>08:30–09:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09:00–09:30</b>	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>
<b>09:30–11:00</b>	<p><b>Session 1: Introduction and Why bring broadband to the rural areas?</b> <i>Edwin San Roman, ITU Expert</i></p> <p>The Introduction will cover the scope and methodology of the workshop and include participant introductions. This session will then explain with the help of data and examples why it is important to bring broadband to rural areas.</p> <p>During this session, working groups will be formed. Each group will be given a case study, the results of which will then be presented at the end of the workshop.</p>
<b>11:00–11:30</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
<b>11:30–13:00</b>	<p><b>Session 2: The Dominican Republic's context and their rural broadband project.</b> <i>Edwin San Roman, ITU Expert</i></p> <p>This session will present the context for promoting broadband rural access in the Dominican Republic and includes a brief geographical, political, demographic and economic overview of the country; its telecommunications sector; government policy on information and communications technologies (ICTs); the role of the policy maker and regulator; and the extent of their involvement in promoting and developing universal access and service.</p> <p>Special attention is paid to policies that promote broadband access. This session will also present the concept of the Universal Access Fund and how it is used. It will conclude with a brief presentation of the Dominican Republic's Rural Broadband Connectivity project.</p>
<b>13:00–14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00–15:30</b>	<p><b>Session 3: The importance of Knowing the country, Consulting with stakeholders and Doing pilot projects.</b> <i>Edwin San Roman, ITU Expert</i></p> <p>This session describes the importance of knowing the country and its habits, in particular its rural areas. The need to consult and involve the main stakeholders will be emphasise. The importance of undertaking pilot projects to test and demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of rural connectivity projects will be explained.</p>
<b>15:30–16:00</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
<b>16:00–17:30</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Overview of Technologies for broadband applications, and Use of GIS in rural telecom projects.</b> <i>Edwin San Roman, ITU Expert</i></p> <p>This session will provide a general overview of the main technologies that operators use for the provision of broadband access. It will also cover the use of geographical information systems (GIS) and Google Earth and how they can be used when planning rural telecommunications projects.</p>

**Wednesday 9 December 2009**

<b>09:30–11:00</b>	<p><b>Session 5: Development of a rural broadband project: Administrative and legal aspects, Nature of licenses and issues related to spectrum and Importance of doing demand studies, economic model and minimum subsidy mechanism.</b>  <i>Edwin San Roman, ITU Expert</i></p> <p>This session will provide the practical steps in developing and implementing a rural broadband project and is illustrated with examples from Peru and the Dominican Republic. It presents the main issues related to administrative and legal aspects, discusses the nature of licences and issues related to spectrum, demand analysis, economic model and minimum subsidy mechanism.</p>
<b>11:00–11:30</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
<b>11:30–13:00</b>	<p><b>Session 6: The tender process, Contracting and supervising, Raising awareness and Sustainability.</b>  <i>Edwin San Roman, ITU Expert</i></p> <p>In this session, the main issues related to the tender process, the contract payment methods and supervising of the project will be presented. How to raise awareness and the build sustainability into the project will be discussed.</p>
<b>13:00–14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00–15:30</b>	<p><b>Session 7: Other innovative funding mechanisms, Sustainability challenges and lessons learned, Conclusion and best practices</b>  <i>Edwin San Roman, ITU Expert</i></p> <p>Universal access and service funds are not the only mechanisms to fund projects which bring telecommunications networks and provide services to rural, unserved and underserved areas. In this session other mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, private initiatives and private-private partnerships will be presented.</p>
<b>15:30–16:00</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
<b>16:00–17:30</b>	<p><b>Session 8: Presentation of Participants' Working group case study</b>  <i>Edwin San Roman, ITU Expert</i></p> <p>In this final session the participants shall present the results of the case studies they have working on during the two-day workshop.</p>