NTRC ICT NEWSLETTER

Innovative Ideas & Apps awarded cash prizes and gifts at NTRC's 2018 i^2 Competition

On Wednesday, November 14, 2018, twenty-two (22) teams displayed their innovative skills at the NTRC's 2018 i^2 Competition. This event took place at the Kingstown Methodist Church Hall from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The participants entered in three (3) categories, namely, the Secondary Idea category, the Secondary Mobile App category; and the Open Category (eligible for persons under 35 years). Participants presented their ideas to a panel of judges consisting of professionals.
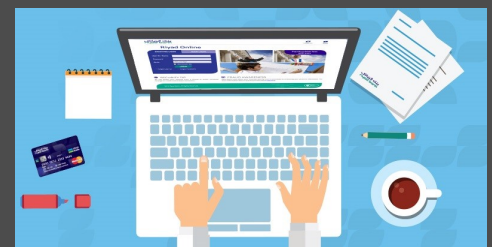
At the conclusion of the day's event, the group "PBSS Young Inventors" from the Petit Bordel Secondary School emerged as the winner of the Secondary Idea Category. The group proposed an idea that assists persons with disabilities in helping them find places that are disabled friendly. The members of PBSS Inventors collectively won $2000.00 in cash, smartphones from Digicel and cases of Vita Malt compliments St. Vincent Brewery Ltd.

In the Secondary Mobile Application

category, the group "Team Titans" from the St. Vincent Grammar School took the top position with their app which was designed to help local farmers find a market for their agricultural produce. The team collectively won $3000 in cash and tablet computers compliments King Computer Corporation (USA).

The Team Med Lab Pro were the winners of the Open Category. The team consisting of two employees at the lab of the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital proposed an app that alleviate some of the problems that persons who visit the lab normally encounters. The app was designed to display to display to a user when their results are available to avoid having them to visit the lab unnecessarily. The Team Med Lab Pro walked away with a prize of $5000.00 cash along with tablets from Express Data Systems, Mobile Power banks from King Computer and cases of Vita Malt compliment St. Vincent Brewery.

Source: NTRC

Being Smart Online

Check your settings

Use the privacy and security settings on social media sites so that only friends and family can see your pages. Then speak to friends and family and encourage them to tighten their privacy settings too as they could affect you. Even if your account is locked as private, personal information you have shared with others could still be accessed through their pages.

Guard personal information

Don't post any personal information-your address, email address or mobile number - publicly online. Just one piece of personal information could be used by a complete stranger to find out even more. If you want to include your birthday in your profile it's safer not to actually display it publicly - providing your full date of birth makes you more vulnerable to identity fraud.

Anti-virus software

Make sure you have anti-virus software installed on your computer and be careful what you download or install on your computer.
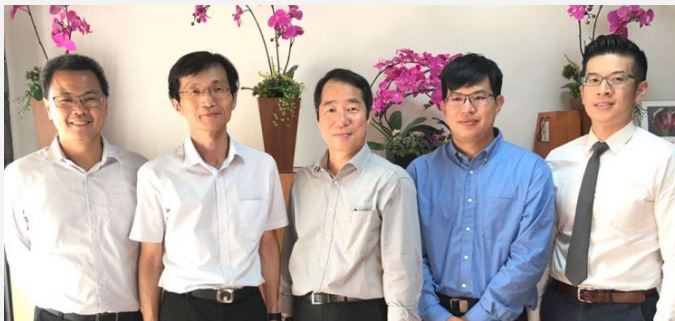
NTRC selects the Winner of its Giveaway Promotion for Attendees of NTRC's 2018 i^2 Competition

On Monday November 19, 2018, the NTRC held a giveaway live on its Facebook page (NTRC SVG) to select the winner of its giveaway promotion for the attendees of the Grande Finale and Prize Giving Ceremony of the NTRC's 2018 i^2 Competition.

To be eligible for entry in the giveaway, persons were required to attend the event and register their name and contact details at the NTRC's registration desk.

On Monday, November 19th, Corporal Syon Shoy was selected at random during the NTRC's Facebook live session. Corporal Shoy has won himself $150 gift vouchers each for Bamboo Spa, Young Island and Bonadie's #2 Supermarket.

E-document and E-archiving system kicks off in SVG

From left: Tsu-Wei Kao, Dr. Wen-Cheng Wang, Ambassador Calvin C.H. Ho, Yu-Che Huang and Shih-Heng Hung.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology and the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on Friday, November 9, 2018 co-hosted a ceremony to officially launch the E-document and E-archiving System which was installed in seven (7) ministries and agencies of the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The main goal of the E-document and E-archiving System is to greatly improve the efficiency of processing information among the said ministries and agencies of SVG government. Moreover, by integrating the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) to the abovementioned system, the system itself could be secured as well.
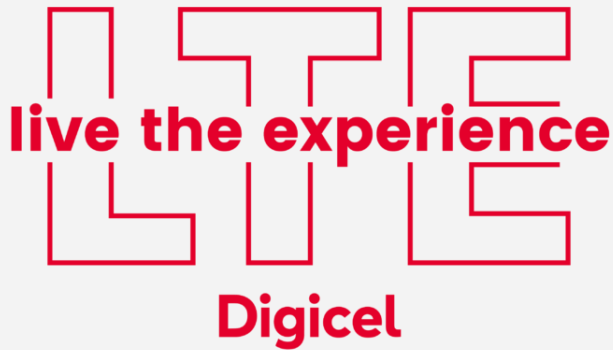
Two years ago, SVG and Taiwan signed an agreement titled "Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) of the Government of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines" to install the E-document and E-archiving System among seven ministries or agencies – including the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce; Service Commission Department; Treasury; Inland Revenue; Customs and Excise; and the Information Technology Services Division.

David Fu, the Project Manager of EDRMS, said that the EDRMS has been smoothly completed. Fu added that four Taiwanese ICT experts facilitated the completion, testing, training and final examination of the whole System ahead of the handing over. They are Dr. Wen-Cheng Wang (Vice President of Chunghwa Telecom), Director Tsu-Wei Kao, Senior Engineer Yu-Che Huang and Senior Planner Shih-Heng Hung of the Institute for Information Industry of Taiwan.

With the kick-off of the E-document and E-archiving System in the government of SVG, it marks a new chapter of the mutual cooperation between SVG and Taiwan. The well-trained and excellent staff members of the seven related governmental agencies will be responsible for the future maintenance and operation of the system, Fu stressed.

Fu deeply appreciated the support and assistance lent by the government of St Vincent and the Grenadines in the past two years. He is convinced that the project of EDRMS will benefit all Vincentian people due to the better and efficient service could be provided by the government of SVG with the launch the E-document and E-archiving System within the government.

Source: Searchlight

Digicel launches LTE Network in St. Lucia

November 2, 2018—Digicel customers can now enjoy blazing-fast mobile speeds on St. Lucia's only island-wide superfast Long-Term Evolution (LTE) network.

The move is part of Digicel's promise to take things to the next level with an ongoing global network expansion. LTE is the very latest in commercially available mobile data technology, packing speeds up to ten times faster than the previous HSPA+ technology. It is capable of running multiple applications smoothly, allowing customers to share large files in real-time and multi-task to their heart's content. With speeds that surpass anything on a personal computer, it also enables glitch-free High Definition (HD) videos and streaming in real-time, whether on a smartphone, tablet or other internet-enabled device.

The launch of LTE is another first-to-market for Digicel and is also a major step in equipping St. Lucia with the most modern communications and entertainment infrastructure, while improving the country's rate of internet penetration. To this, Siobhan James-Alexander, CEO of Digicel St. Lucia commented, "Besides upgrading the way people connect, LTE gives a boost to local productivity and opens up significant earning and employment opportunities for the people of St. Lucia."

In its World Development Report (2016) the World Bank showed how a ten percentage point increase in broadband penetration can increase Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 1.38 percentage points in developing economies. With LTE, St. Lucia can drive digital transformation and systematically restructure the society, getting the most out of services like e-commerce, e-learning and e-government.

Source: St Lucia News Online

Barbados to host CARIBNOG 17 in April 2019

The next regional gathering of the Caribbean Network Operators Group, called CaribNOG 17, will take place in Bridgetown, Barbados from April 10 to 12, 2019.

CaribNOG is a volunteer-based community, largely drawn from the professionals who design, build, maintain and safeguard the region's computer networks. Like many other network operator groups around the world, CaribNOG is dedicated to advancing members' technical capacity and developing stronger networks in the region.

"There can be no vision for overall Caribbean development without the development of the Caribbean Internet. It is the responsibility of technology professionals in the region to help shape its development and to help defend it against attack," said Stephen Lee, Program Director of CaribNOG.

"At CaribNOG 17, we will be discussing a range of cybersecurity and network resiliency issues that are central to the development of a more open, resilient and secure Internet."

CaribNOG 17 immediately follows the next public policy meeting of the American Registry of Internet Numbers, called ARIN 43, which takes place at the same venue from April 7 to 10, 2019.

A longtime supporter of CaribNOG, ARIN is providing a Fellowship program to support persons interested in participating in the ARIN 43 and CaribNOG 17 meetings. The ARIN Fellowship Program offers several individuals an opportunity to attend these meetings at no charge, and also offers hotel accommodations at the meeting venue, round-trip economy class airfare, and a stipend.

"The ARIN 43 and CaribNOG 17 meetings provide interested persons in the Caribbean with an opportunity to shape Internet policy and to gain practical technical knowledge and skills. This is particularly important, given our region's increased reliance on information and communications technologies in almost every sector," said Bevil Wooding, CaribNOG co-founder and Caribbean Outreach Liaison at ARIN.

Event and registration details will be made available on the official websites caribnog.org and arin.net.

Source: Gerard Best

ITU PP-18 concludes in the UAE with ITU Telecom strategy for the next four years

Organised by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) and held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the first time, the International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) concluded, with a number of landmark decisions that contributed in drafting the future roadmap for the global information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

Members, delegates and guest from over 180 countries convened at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) for a period of three weeks, wherein they discussed a total of 274 working papers, moved various resolutions, decided on proposal and elected the management of the ITU, with an overarching aim of making efforts to bridge the global digital divide.

As the 20th edition of the conference officially concluded, the member states reaffirmed their commitment to the collective vision of a connected world, where information and communication technology (ICT) is a source of good and upliftment for everyone, everywhere and the mandate of ITU to realize this vision.

PP-18 saw a number of breakthrough records towards gender parity including the election of the first woman to one of the five top management positions in the 153-year history of the organisation. Also, nearly 30 percent of the PP-18 participants were women, up from 20 percent at PP-14.
In addition to aforementioned, for the first time in the history of ITU's Plenipotentiary Conferences, ITU Member States elected more women than men to Committee Chairs (four out of seven). They also elected three women to the Radio Regulations Board. It is notable that for the past four years, only two women served on the board, which approves the Rules of Procedure in the application of the Radio Regulations, the international treaty on the allocation and use of radio frequencies and the use of satellite orbits.

Source: Zawya

EE to launch 5G in 16 UK cities next year

UK carrier EE has announced plans to launch 5G sites in 16 UK cities in 2019. The telco, which is part of BT Group, said 5G services will be initially available in London, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Belfast, Birmingham and Manchester.
EE said that it is currently deploying 5G sites in the busiest parts of these six cities, including Hyde Park in London, Manchester Arena, Belfast City Airport, the Welsh Assembly, Edinburgh Waverly train station and Birmingham's Bullring.

The telco said that the BT Technology team is virtualizing elements of the core network for 5G rollout in 2019, and is building a next generation 5G core for the planned launches next year.
EE said that the first 1,500 sites that EE is upgrading to 5G in 2019 carry 25% of all data across the whole network, but only cover 15% of the UK population.

The carrier also said that businesses and consumers in these areas are being invited to join the trial, which will first use 5G as an alternative to their fixed broadband.

Source: RCR Wireless