



Antigua and Barbuda  
Information and Communication  
Technologies (ICTs)  
Draft Policy

Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and Telecommunications  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Queen Elizabeth Highway  
St. John's, Antigua  
Tel: 562-3860  
Fax: 562-3914  
e-mail: [mibt@antigua.gov.ag](mailto:mibt@antigua.gov.ag)  
[www.antigua.gov.ag](http://www.antigua.gov.ag)

# Antigua and Barbuda

## Information and Communication Technologies

### Draft Policy

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the services associated with them include the broad fields of information processing, transmission and communication by means of computer and telecommunication techniques. These modern tools are being used increasingly for organizational and personal information processing in all sectors of the economy and society. The technology and techniques necessary to deliver those services have increased astronomically over the last 10 years.

National development and the growth of any economy are now inextricably dependent upon the existence of a vibrant ICT industry, the availability of modern telecommunications infrastructure and the satisfaction of the growing demand for affordable telecommunications services.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is cognizant of the importance of ICT. The convergence and integration of communication networks and services, and the explosive growth of the Internet and Electronic Commerce, can no longer be ignored. Accordingly the Government has developed after extensive consultations the following ICT policy, which is a blue print for the economic transformation of Antigua and Barbuda to a knowledge-based society. In its implementation, this policy will provide the requisite legal and regulatory framework as well as financial and social incentives, which will ensure that the people of Antigua and Barbuda are active participants in the Global Village and reap the full rewards of globalization.

The Government's intention is to promote a set of policies designed to upgrade the intellectual capital of its people. The "People First" philosophy is to ensure that every citizen and resident has affordable access to ICT services in order to communicate and better themselves educationally and economically.

ICT will be integrated into the very fabric of our daily lives. The reform of the educational system and integrating the use of ICT must be accomplished if Antigua and Barbuda is to rise to First World standards and status.

# VISION

Access by every citizen of Antigua and Barbuda at affordable prices to:

- ❖ ICT Services and
- ❖ the latest in modern communications technology.

Promote Antigua and Barbuda as a Regional Centre of Information Technology Excellence to support the development of:

- E-commerce
- Internet Marketing
- Internet Gaming
- Software Development
- E-education

Achieve the growth of small and medium enterprises by leveraging ICT Services and Techniques

Have unparalleled growth in the national economy by increasing employment and revenue inflows that are directly attributable to a vibrant ICT industry.

# POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 1) The people of Antigua and Barbuda are to have access to and become active participants in the global village network.
- 2) Telecommunications is to function as a catalyst for economic growth and development
- 3) The creation of a dynamic ICT industry is to be developed within Antigua and Barbuda that will provide employment opportunities and ensure that Antigua and Barbuda benefits from the converging areas of telecommunications, broadcasting and information technology
- 4) Training of personnel to provide the leadership and guidance in an expanding and diversified ICT industry
- 5) An independent telecommunications regulatory authority is envisioned that will be authorized to regulate the telecommunications sector in a transparent, non-discriminatory and accountable manner and facilitate effective competition.
- 6) Social objectives in education, health, commerce, governance systems and national security will be enhanced and achieved by the use of ICT services and techniques