National ICT initiatives steered by the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism
* Introduction
* Short history
* UNDP/TCT project
* Link with current ICT in education projects.
*Responsibility Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism.

*Focal point for various initiatives for regional and international organizations, like CTU, ITU, Caricom.
* In 2006 The Road map to ICT development in Suriname
* 2008: A national commission was installed to formulate a national ICT strategy, with no success;
* Ministry of Home Affairs: As part of the Public Sector Reform Program an E readiness study was produced in 2010.

* Short history of some national actions
Ministry of Labour, Technological Development and the Environment: executed a project to work towards the formulation of a national technology policy in 2008.

On a regional level we actively participated in the steering committee of Caricom which has formulated a regional digital development strategy.
*Essential: To stimulate developments through legislation;
*and to have a facilitating regulatory environment
*A national working group is assessing the current Telecom Act of 2004 and will advise the Minister of Transport, Communication and Tourism on the way ahead.

*Current situation with regard to legislation*
UNDP Suriname contacted the Ministry and proposed a joint venture in implementing a project.

Reducing Disparities through the use of ICTs in Suriname.

Aim of this project: use ICTs to bring government services to the users in the rural and urban areas.
* Expected results: to have an instrument for exposing the population to the possibilities of ICT tools.

* Since there is no national ICT strategy, a strategy to implement this intention has been formulated.

* During his assessment the consultant shared his findings whereby the needs and wants of the various stakeholders was presented.

* Cont’d project of UNDP-TCT
First he presented an overview of how ICT are used and which government services are accessible;

Those interviewed also indicated for which gov. services there is a need.

That is Central Civil Registry, the Health sector, but most of all education sector.
* It is clear by donating just hardware and software no sustainable solution is served.
* we must focus on the human element.
* focus will be on training and educating the population so that once the hard and software is donated the domino effect of continuous use is realized.

* Suggestions and conclusions
*Important for the development is cooperation between the various initiatives that take place.

*So the need for a central agency is necessary but it will not deter the implementation of initiatives that take place as you will learn from the next presenters.

*Coordination is the key word so that duplication of projects by government bodies is avoided.

*The next step
We hope to get ideas on how develop content for the community access centers that will be used to bring gov services to urban and rural areas.

Educators in the interior are key persons next to the health workers.

The strategy has valuable points which will be incorporated in the national ICT policy.
Thank You