

SIDSNET / CPACC INTERNET TRAINING WORKSHOP REPORT

**Belize City, Belize
November 3rd – 5th, 1999.**

by

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Introduction

This workshop was held at *World Com Technologies*, an institute for Computer Training, Internet Seminars and the like, as well as a retail centre for computer related books and software. The facility is owned by a young and very inspirational Garifuna woman, Mrs. Loretta Garcia-Palacio, who has also opened another outlet in Dangriga (also in Belize). Mrs. Garcia-Palacio and her staff were very accommodating.

Mr. Carlos Fuller, Project Manager for the National Communications project and one of the main local contacts for the CPACC project was the local co-ordinator. Mr. Fuller also attended the workshop. The trainers were Roger St. Hilaire from SURF/UNDP in Trinidad, and Roger Pemberton, a college teacher from St. Kitts.

Facilities

The room seated 12 people comfortably. It was small but adequate. An overhead projector was used, however, this gave some problems on the first day and had to be replaced. There were no problems subsequently. A projector screen could not be made available to us, so we used one of the walls in the room.

There were 12 workstations connected to a Local Area network (LAN) and one modem. Internet connectivity was good for the duration of the workshop.

Participants

There were 8 participants from government institutions. All of them were quite comfortable with basic Internet skills and this made it possible for the trainers to get on with the more advanced material immediately. HTML was not popular, but Netscape Composer was introduced to design a Web Page and this gave satisfactory results.

Costs

Total costs were EC\$3,725, approximately US\$1,433, of which US\$1,100 will be paid by SIDSnet.

Workshop review

Although we got off to a somewhat late start, due to the delay of flights, we covered all the topics we intended to. The participants had a lot to share and were enthusiastic about the hands on work done in Web Page design. Roger Pemberton led this topic and he gave everyone the same information and selection of graphics to design their own page. This better facilitated learning from each other.

There was a keen interest in the services that SIDSnet offers, especially since some participants had voiced their frustrations about lack of access to certain types of relevant information, and duplication of efforts with regard to environmental projects.

There was a level of comfort and ease (that one associates with being at home) in interacting with the participants. Almost everyone knew each other, and the trainers and myself were warmly welcomed. The workshop was indeed a success and a good experience for all.

SIDSnet/CPACC Workshop Agenda

Day 1

1.00 am to 130 pm – Introductions

Welcome - Carlos Fuller (CPACC NFP in Belize, and local coordinator of the workshop)

Workshop Structure – Roger St. Hilaire

Participants Introduction and Objectives – Carlos Fuller

Workshop Introduction, Objectives and Background - Roger St. Hilaire

1.30pm – 3.00pm - Web Browsing – Roger St. Hilaire

SIDSnet Site and CD ROM Overview

Browser Introduction

3.00 pm – 3.15pm – Break

3.15 pm – 5.00 pm- Web Browsing continued – Roger St. Hilaire, Roger Pemberton

Internet Based Applications

Search Demo and Exercise

List servers, News groups

Day 2

9.00am – 10.15a.m. - Email - Roger St. Hilaire, Roger Pemberton

Email Introduction

Web-based Email

10.15 - 10.35 – Break

10.35 – 12.30 pm - HTML Tools – Netscape Composer – Roger Pemberton

Web page Design

12.30 – 2.00 pm - LUNCH

2.00 pm – 3.15 pm - Web page Design continued

3.15pm – 3.30pm - Break

3.30 pm – 5.00 pm- Overview of Web site Design – Roger Pemberton, Roger St. Hilaire

Website Management and Development

Day 3

9.00am – 10.15a.m. - Website Management and Development continued

10.15am - 10.35 - Break

10.35 – 12.30 pm - Advanced Internet Facilities

Communications policy

12.30 – 2.00 pm - LUNCH

2.00 pm – 3.15 pm - Wrap-up

Development Issues for SIDS and the Caribbean

Questionnaires

Conclusion

PARTICIPANT'S LIST - BELIZE

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