

Media Release

OUR opens IXP talks in Jamaica

(KINGSTON, Jamaica; February 20, 2013): The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) opened discussions about the establishment of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) in Jamaica at a symposium hosted for industry stakeholders at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. The seminar was the first phase of an OUR project to determine the technical, practical and economic feasibility of establishing national Internet Exchange Points in Jamaica, and covered the principles, benefits and requirements for establishing local IXPs.

An IXP allows local Internet Service Providers to connect their networks and exchange traffic locally, on a cost-neutral basis, and thereby keep local-bound internet traffic within the nation's borders instead of sending it across expensive international links as typically happens in most developing countries today.


The symposium was held on February 19, 2013 and facilitated by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) in collaboration with Packet Clearing House (PCH), the world's leading implementer of Internet Exchange Points. The CTU is the regional inter-governmental information and communications technology (ICT) organisation responsible for facilitating the development of the Caribbean ICT sector. The CTU provides advice and assistance to its members on matters of ICT development, capacity building and the formulation of harmonized Caribbean ICT policies.

"An Internet Exchange Point is especially relevant when one considers the implications in terms of cost, network efficiency and privacy control; the exchange will assist in improving service delivery to end users as well as reduce the costs of exchanging traffic between the internet service providers", says Technical Services Manager at the OUR, Curtis Robinson .A local IXP is considered a critical platform for facilitating the creation of domestic-focussed applications and services and will be especially beneficial for local applications that are bandwidth-intensive.

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