

## **Easy, Affordable and Accessible Fixed & Mobile Broadband Services**

Have you ever wondered what allows your mobile device to access the World Wide Web from any location globally?

This process is called Spectrum Management which is defined as the efficient allocation of spectrum necessary to create affordable and easily accessible wireless broadband Internet services globally.

In collaboration with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), Compete Caribbean recently co-sponsored a Spectrum Pricing Workshop. Spectrum prices are used as an important mechanism to ensure that spectrum resources available in a jurisdiction are used efficiently by consumers. The effective use of spectrum creates affordable prices for end-users of telecommunication services.

This workshop is part of a larger project co-sponsored by Compete Caribbean and the CTU, focusing on a regional approach to spectrum planning and management in the Caribbean. The project will support 14 CARIFORUM countries in the regional harmonization of their spectrum planning, management policies and practices that will improve the capacity of these countries to harmonize, streamline and improve regulations and procedures in telecommunications, especially those related to broadband access and penetration .

The initiative is expected to develop a strategic plan to ensure regional regulatory harmonization to be endorsed at the World Radio Communications Conference 2015 (WRC-15) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The event was well attended by participants from various stakeholder groups in the Caribbean including telecommunication/spectrum management regulators; ministries; independent experts and operators. It was led by Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)/Compete Caribbean Consultant - Mr. Adrian Foster, Spectrum Policy and Reform Specialist.

It was also heralded a very successful dialogue in terms of representation, participation and the development of specific action plans by participating National Regulatory Authorities across the Caribbean.

In the workshop, consensus was achieved around the need to incorporate best practice spectrum price principles, especially transparency and objectivity, into instruments and documents guiding regulatory processes and decision making that will assist in the improvement of fixed and mobile broadband services region wide.