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Presentation on:

Science and Technology as Strategic Driver of Regional Integration

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Introduction

Nowadays, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have become strategic as they enhance the communications within and among countries, for both social and productive sectors. This is why the development and the implementation of modern ICT policies have been given the highest priority at both national and regional levels.

At the beginning of the restructuring of ICT, the main focus was put on the separation of roles between policy makers, regulators, operators. The objective was to create conducive conditions to investors in ICT.

Currently, the main priority is put the development of broadband infrastructure and the e-applications needed to increase the effectiveness and the productivity in ICT Sectors.

Harmonisation of ICT Policies

Broadband infrastructure networks

- An e-government framework
E-government project at national level
- The implementation and the achievement of the objectives and the ultimate goal of the Strategy will depend on the following critical success factors and conditions:
 - Top-level political leadership commitment and championship for the e-government
 - initiative implementation process
 - Institutional structures and arrangements to facilitate and support the implementation process of the details of the Strategy
 - Relevant legal and legislative provisions to support the implementation of the e-government initiative
 - A core group of dedicated senior level decision makers and professional within the civil and public service committed to providing leadership and championship to facilitate and support the implementation of the initiative within their respective organizations, institutions and entities

- Dedicated civil and public servants with a conducive attitude to work and commitment to productive and efficient work ethics
- Required and necessary changes in relevant organizational and institutional structures, processes, and procedures conducive for the effective implementation of the e-government initiatives involving the effective deployment and exploitation of ICTs within these organizations
- Human resource availability in key skill areas and expertise necessary for supporting the roll-out of e-government initiatives within the civil and public service and in the society at large
- Financial and technological resource availability

Expected results

Modernized and efficient civil and public service

Development and use of e-applications in

- Education
- Commerce
- Agriculture
- Transport
- Manufacturing
- Biotechnology
- Health
- Customs
- Information systems (Revenue Authority)
- Tourism
- Insurance
- Make it possible to develop technology centers as important tools for development
- R& D centers

At regional level,

- Need for harmonization of policies
- Progressive integration of applications in customs, immigrations, cargo tracking,
- Outsourcing
- EASSy
- EACBIN

Main Challenges

- Energy infrastructure
- Man powers, limited resources on skilled peoples
- Low level of adaptation to new technologies
- Slow Establishment of Science and Technology Commission