**Speech mr Adriaens**

**20 maart 2012**


Dear guests,

CARICERT is a fact. Though with a limited service, which will be enhanced and broadened during the year 2012, we have a National Cyber Emergency Response Team for the Caribbean area.

I want to congratulate Bureau Telecommunicatie and Post on this. Not only for having had the vision to establish a CERT, but also for realizing it, knowing how much effort it is to comply with the international standards of a CERT.

I was asked to speak some words here, because I am an enthusiastic supporter of this initiative. Having said this, I want to inform you that Curacao Airport Holding will be a constituent from day one on. I expect other organizations from the vital sectors in Curacao to join us soon and I would like to call out for them to consider becoming one of the founding participants of CARICERT.

Why is CARICERT important?

As you might remember I took the initiative for the drawing of Masterplan Curacao Information Society. This was already mentioned by minister Cooper and mr. De Canha. It is my vision that Curacao becomes a knowledge society, using ICT as the main driver for that. This is not just a personal conviction. Knowledge has long been recognized as the prime condition for innovation and economic development and growth and academic analysis shows that a country's prosperity is proportional to its development as a knowledge economy. We need, now more than ever, economic growth. We must find ways to use all the possibilities of the Caribbean area and her inhabitants to find sustainable prosperity.

This now, can be obtained by a sound and solid infrastructure for telecommunications and internet. By guaranteeing the integrity of our networks and by offering as many people as possible the chance to use them.

In this Masterplan a lot of proposals were described. The timelines we used were 2019 and 2025 and it is clear that we do need many years to achieve the status of genuine information society. It might even be, that a number of items we have proposed will never be executed.

But I do know that the current Curacao government is very progressive in realizing the necessary infrastructure. We have a working network infrastructure: fixed, mobile, wireless. We have CARIX, we have several telecommunication companies and central facilities as data centers, co-location facilities, internet services, security facilities were realized. Also we have the Caribbean Internet Exchange CAR-IX. We can state that more households and more businesses us ICT and broadband, thanks to awareness raising and information. A lot of work was done in the past years.

Now, as mr De Canha already mentioned, we have to take care of the security of this all. We have to exchange information and money in a secure way, in order to keep the trust in ICT as an economic driver. This is partly the responsibility of CARICERT. CARICERT will guard the internet, will detect vulberabilities and threats and will share this knowledge with her constistuents. It will help us to increase our knowledge and our skills when it comes to security. It will  prevent us from doing the wrong things, like connecting our operating systems to the world wide web without overthinking it properly, without considering the threats involved. And also, it will prove to be able to create awareness for computer users at home to use the internet in a safe and responsible way. CARICERT cannot do this on her own, so I call out for businesses, school and government parties to support this and to develop a solid communication strategy together.

Apart from the services CARICERT offers and will offer in the future, I am convinced that having an operational CERT for the Caribbean area, will increase the trust of the international community in the possibilities our area offers, in our business opportunities, in our pursuit to be recognized as an important hub in the global value chains. This might not be the place nor the time to remind you of my vision on the future developments of the airport. But also in this perspective I think security and trust are the main elements in these developments. CARICERT offers them both and I think we can only be happy for that.

Thank you very much.