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Press Release

## **Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL)**

For Immediate Release

### **The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) Joins Internet Society (ISOC)**

***Castries, Saint Lucia. May 26, 2015*** - The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) is now a member of the Internet Society-ISOC. The membership agreement was signed during ECTEL's two-day fifteenth anniversary conference, held at the Bay Gardens Hotel in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia recently.

Founded in 1992 the Internet Society is an international, non-profit organisation which was set up to provide leadership in internet related standards, education, and policy. ISOC's mission is "to promote the open development, evolution and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world."

The Internet Society is headquartered in Virginia, United States with offices in Geneva, Switzerland. It has a membership base of more than 130 organisations and more than 55,000 individual members. Members also form "chapters" based on either common geographical location or special interests. There are over 90 chapters around the world.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between both entities, entitles ECTEL to among other things, recognition and benefits of Small Business Level of Organisation Membership with ISOC, access to business intelligence through engagement with the Society and its experts and participation in the development of ISOC's global public policy positions. ECTEL will also be featured on the ISOC website online directory of members, with a link to its homepage. The regional regulatory body will also have two representatives on the Internet Society's Advisory Council.

Managing Director of ECTEL Mr. Embert Charles, signed the agreement on behalf of ECTEL. Manager, Regional Affairs for Latin America and the Caribbean Mr. Shernon Osepa, signed on behalf of ISOC.

According to Mr. Charles: "Participation in the deliberations of the Internet Society provides ECTEL with the perspectives and information on emerging cross cutting issues related to Internet service provisions and governance and ICT in general. This will position ECTEL and the NTRCs to provide the appropriate advice to policy makers."

Activities to mark ECTEL's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations are continuing under the theme: "Committed to Broadband and Open Access in a Digital World".

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**PHOTO CAPTION: ECTEL Managing Director Embert Charles signs MOU with ISOC's Shernon Osepa**

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