

GIRLS IN ICT DAY

23 APRIL 2015



*Expand horizons,
change attitudes*

www.girlsinict.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First International Girls in ICT Day set to be hosted by URCA, Cable Bahamas Ltd, BTC and other licensees in the sector

Annual day promotes career opportunities for young women to become ICT creators

NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS, APRIL 2015 —Every year on the fourth Thursday in April, International Telecommunication Union, ITU and the global technology community celebrate ‘International Girls in ICT Day’, an awareness-raising initiative designed to promote tech careers and studies to a new generation of girls and young women encouraging them to become creators of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) creators. This year’s celebration is under the theme ***Expand Horizons, change attitudes***.

On Thursday April 23rd, URCA, Cable Bahamas Ltd and BTC along with other sector licensees have collaborated as organizers for the first celebration of International Girls in ICT Day in The Bahamas, which is celebrated in over 140 other countries. The organizers will facilitate a one day “Girls in ICT Forum and mini-career fair. Some 100 female high school students from the public and private institutions have been invited to attend. The event will be formally opened by Senator the Hon. Allyson Maynard Gibson, Attorney General and will also feature interactive presentations from successful women in ICT who are using ICT to develop and promote their organizations, and by extension the quality of life for Bahamians.

The purpose of the event is to equip young girls with knowledge about the ICT sector and to inspire in them the confidence that ICT can be for them, as well as to expose them to a myriad of career opportunities.

“ICTs are improving the lives of people everywhere, through better healthcare, better education, better communication and better governance” said one of the event organizers Nicole Watkins, Associate Counsel, Cable Bahamas Ltd. She continued that it’s important that we encourage our young girls to “pursue smart careers – careers where you make the very best of technology to help improve the lives of others”.

“We are delighted to be the first to host such an inaugural event and to come together as women despite our corporate affiliations” said Mavis Johnson-Collie, Corporate & Consumer Relations Manager, URCA and event organizer. “We are the models for these young girls and we want to spark a different way of thinking when choosing a career path and show them the many opportunities available and what is achievable and can be created in through ICT.”

“There are innumerable opportunities in ICTS. These areas which underpin the manner in which we communicate do business and live present many avenues for development for our communities. We are pleased to support and mentor our youth as they create new paths for themselves” said Pauline

Seymour, VP of Legal Regulatory Affairs and Carrier Services of the Bahamas Telecommunications Company Limited. Ms. Seymour added that the organizers will continue to look for avenues to assist the country in bridging the technological divide.

While the organizing committee recognizes that females do dominate the workforce in general in The Bahamas, there is a vacuum of female in areas such as coding, mobile apps and animation and games development, Digital video production and digital art works and other digital skills training. ICT is the fastest growing sector in the world, “we would like to see Bahamians and in particular our girls and young women step up to the plate and make their contribution to the sector”.

The young ladies attending Thursday’s symposium will hear that they qualifications needed to successful in the sector will include certification in areas such as infrastructural engineering, civil engineering, specialized legal training, electronic and spectrum engineering.

Other activities in celebration of Girls in ICT and which will precede the full day event, include the production of two half hour television shows –**Women Tech Talk** – which will highlight Bahamian women who are recognized as trailblazers in the various ICT sub-sectors and have paved the way for next generation. The TV shows can be viewed beginning Monday April 20th on ZNS –channel 11, Cable 12 –channel 12 and JCN-channel 14.

The success of the Girls in ICT Day celebration is also dependent on the commitment of our partners, sponsors, and stakeholders such as Cable 12, ZNS Bahamas, The Nassau Guardian, Guardian Radio, JCN TV14, Print Masters and the many Bahamian women in ICT who without whose support, the day would not be a success..

Girls in ICT Day is an initiative that dates back to 2010 and is backed by ITU Member States of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).To date the day has been observed and celebrated in more than 140,000 countries. The Bahamas is a member.

About Cable Bahamas Ltd.

Cable Bahamas is the communications provider of choice and the first to offer triple play services in The Bahamas. Services are provided under the REV suite of products including REVOICE, REVON and REVTV covering telephony, Internet and cable TV respectively. The company has revolutionised every area of business, delivering REVOICE landline phone service at the lowest cost and with the most features in The Bahamas, REVON broadband Internet, which is the fastest in the nation, and REVTV cable TV services that includes more than 500 channels with dozens in HD and thousands of hours of video on demand content. Cable Bahamas serves residential and business customers on 16 islands in The Bahamas. The company also created the Cable Cares Foundation, which has awarded over \$2 million to local Bahamian non-profit organisations since inception. For more information please visit the company website at www.cablebahamas.com, follow on Twitter @cablebahamas or visit the company Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GetRevdUp.

About Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC)

Everything we do is to empower and engage the people of our communities. As the premier provider of telephone, landline, high speed Internet solutions and mobile products in The Bahamas, we are committed to offering the best value in service, to listen, to improve and to deliver our best – everyday.

Every day is a commitment. It's a promise to listen more to our customers and employees, to improve products and services and to deliver continued positive change and progress - EVERYDAY! For more information please visit the company website at www.btcbahamas.com, follow on Twitter @btchelp or visit the company Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mybtc.

About The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA)

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) is the regulatory authority with responsibility for the electronic communications sector (ECS) in The Bahamas. The sector comprises fixed and mobile telephone services, spectrum and numbering, Internet services and broadcasting including pay television. The legislative framework for the ECS is set out in the Communications Act, 2009, which empowers URCA as the independent regulator of the sector with the regulatory tools and powers required for effectiveness. In addition, in 2009 the Government articulated a new vision for the Sector in its Electronic Communications Sector Policy (Sector Policy) that provided for the immediate full liberalization of the ECS on September 1, 2009, with the exception of cellular services. The policy is revised and updated every three years. Although URCA currently regulates the ECS only, it may regulate other sectors over time (such as energy and water), if given specific responsibilities to do so under other sector specific legislation. URCA replaced the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Television Regulatory Authority (TRA). For more information please visit the company website at www.urbahamas.bs.

The International Telecommunication Union

<http://www.itu.int>

ITU is the leading United Nations agency for **information and communication technology issues**, and the global focal point for governments and the private sector in developing networks and services.

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