



WINDS-Caribe Cooperation Seminar in Cuba



February 10, 2009
La Habana, Palace of Conventions and PABEXPO

Introduction and context

On occasion of the [13th International Convention and Fair – Informática 2009](#), WINDS-Caribe organized a Regional Seminar titled “Strengthening the international cooperation in ICT research”, which took place on February 10 at the Palace of Conventions and PABEXPO.

Informática 2009, an event that has been held for more than 20 years and presents 14 scientific-technical events associated to the development strategy of the ICT, was an excellent occasion to meet a number of ICT researchers, key government representatives, and private sector entrepreneurs from Cuba and other countries from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean sub-region and Central America. In these events, the main topics treated were: educational and medical informatics, geomatics, multimedia and virtual reality, ICTs security, telecommunications, free software, quality, electronic commerce, management informatics, automation, electronic design, informatics in social community, and symposium of telecommunication regulators. The 2009 edition was devoted to the use of informatics and telecommunication technologies as support for internal development and technologic sovereignty of nations.

The WINDS-Caribe Regional Seminar was held the week after the Conference WINDS@Santo Domingo (February 5-6, in Universidad Iberoamericana, Dominican Republic) to take the advantages of having the coordinator and other European actors presence as well as joining efforts to disseminate the upcoming FP7 calls in both events. The participation of the project partners in this Cuban event was strategically arranged to expand the spectrum of the ICT R&D actors and initiatives of the region. It counted with the local support of the Ministerio de la Informática y las Comunicaciones (MIC) de Cuba.

The meeting aimed at promoting the cooperation possibilities related to the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development in the country. The main objectives of the WINDS-Caribe Seminar in Cuba were:

- To present current financial support opportunities for research and development projects with FP7
- To introduce the WINDS-Caribe project and the different tools made available to the community through its website
- To debate and validate a set of common main ICT R&D themes which have been identified by the WINDS-Caribe initial mapping exercise
- To explain how to get involved in FP7 and open channels for a follow-up process

Main results

More than 20 high level representatives of universities, research centres, government offices, international organizations and private sector took part of the meeting.



The Seminar was opened by Dra. Vilma I. Altet Casas, Science, Technology and Innovation Director at the Ministerio de la Informática y las Comunicaciones (MIC) de Cuba, who detailed the different MIC programmes and potential areas of collaboration with Europe.

The priorities in Cuba are structured along a specific Government strategy for development of ICT research in the country. The main themes of interest are:

- Telecommunications and connectivity (including telematics and computer networks, network management, radio and digital communications, Next Generation Networks, PLC)
- Automatics and robotics (including theory and control systems, robotics and mechatronics, intelligent buildings, modeling process, simulators)
- Electronics (including microprocessors, programmable logic, digital signal processing, sensors and biosensors, laser, photovoltaic cells, microelectronic design)
- Development of biomedical equipment and software (including signal processing, image processing, neurosciences, biomedical engineering)

According to the Network on Science and Technology Indicators (RICyT)¹, Cuba has increased the numbers of researcher and PhD scholars in science and technology subjects from 4.984 in 1995 to 5.526 in 2005, with an annual grow rate of 4.2%. In this regard, WINDS-Caribe is working to promote the TechCaribe Consortium, which is joined by important ICT universities from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Panama, Costa Rica, Colombia and Dominica Republic, and has good working links with University of West Indies, in Trinidad and Tobago, and the Universidad Quisqueya, in Haiti.

The WINDS-Caribe partners presented the current financial support opportunities for research and development projects with FP7, the work carried out by the project in the first year of its lifecycle, and the interactive tools that the WINDS-Caribe website offer to support the submission process to FP7 calls.

The Seminar represented a great opportunity to promote the WINDS-Caribe project and discuss the main ICT R&D issues that Cuba and other Spanish-Speaking Caribbean countries have identified as priorities. All these subjects and challenges were validated in light of the current possibilities of EU-Caribe cooperation in the ICT research arena. Although the participation of Caribbean institutions in the ICT part of FP7 maintain a low performance, the majority of the attendees showed very interested to present project ideas, specially in security, automatization and software development. This meeting was a good opportunity to demonstrate that the sub-region counts with capable teams that can work together and very high quality research in ICT.

¹ Based on the country indicators for Cuba published on RICyT website at <http://www.ricyt.org/indicadores/porpais/CU.xls>

AGENDA

PROGRAMA	
<i>h 9.00</i>	Bienvenida y introducción <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Vilma Altet Casas, Ministerio de Informática y Comunicaciones (MIC), Cuba♦ Fabio Nascimbeni, MENON Network, Bélgica
<i>h 9.30</i>	Presentación sobre excelencia en investigación TICs en Cuba y temas prioritarios Vilma Altet Casas, Ministerio de Informática y Comunicaciones
<i>h 10.00</i>	Taller: posibilidades ofrecidas por el FP7 para investigadores Cubanos <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Fabio Nascimbeni, MENON, Darwin Muñoz, UNIBE: Presentación del FP7 y posibilidades de cooperación, presentación de WINDS-Caribe♦ Alejandra Davidziuk: Sugerencias para postularse como socio en el FP7: beneficios, desafíos y responsabilidades <p><i>Preguntas y respuestas</i></p>
<i>h 11.00</i>	<u>Pausa Café</u>
<i>h 11:30</i>	Discusión sobre posibles proyectos ICT con participación Cubana Moderador: Alejandra Davidziuk, MENON <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Introducción de los participantes y sus capacidades♦ Presentación de ejemplos de proyectos FP7-ICT♦ Comentarios sobre ideas de proyectos
<i>h 12.30</i>	Próximos pasos y Cierre <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Daniel Pimienta, Funredes: la comunidad online WINDS-Caribe y los próximos pasos de WINDS-Caribe en el Caribe hispanohablante

ATTENDEES

More than 20 high level representatives of universities, research centres, government offices, international organizations and private sector took part of the meeting.

Name	Institutions	Country
Alejandra Davidziuk	MENON Network	Argentina
Alexis Puebla Tamayo	Gestión del Conocimiento en CEDAI	Cuba
Beatriz Aragon Fernandez	Universidad de las Ciencias Informaticas (UCI) – International Cooperation Division	Cuba
Caridad Ibanez Escalada	Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente - CITMA	Cuba
Carmen Moliner Peña	Instituto Superior Politécnico "José Antonio Echeverría" (CUJAE)	Cuba
Daniel Sanchez	Private Sector – Industrial Engineer Company	Cuba
Darwin Munoz	Universidad Iberoamerica	Dominican Republic
Fabio Nascimbeni	MENON Network	Belgium
Irelis Doménech Gonzalez	Ministerio para la Inversión y Colaboración Extranjera (MINVEC)	Cuba
Jesús Martinez Alonso	Ministerio de Transporte	Cuba
Jose Lavandero Garcia	Universidad de las Ciencias Informaticas (UCI)	Cuba
Jose Rosado Amadon	Ministerio para la Inversión y Colaboración Extranjera (MINVEC)	Cuba
Julian Riera	Journalist	Cuba
Lucy Cabrera	Public Education	Dominican Republic
Melchor Gil Morelli	Universidad de las Ciencias Informaticas (UCI)	Cuba
Odalis Lopez	Ministerio de la Informática y las Comunicaciones (MIC)	Cuba
Omar Fuentes Lavan	Gestión del Conocimiento en CEDAI	Cuba
Raichel Ger Peña	Universidad de las Ciencias Informaticas (UCI)	Cuba
Rosa Vazquez Cedron	UEI.CU	Cuba
Tomas Lopez Jimenez	Universidad de las Ciencias Informaticas (UCI)	Cuba
Vilma I. Altet Casas	Ministerio de la Informática y las Comunicaciones (MIC)	Cuba
Yamilis Fernandez Perez	Universidad de las Ciencias Informaticas (UCI)	Cuba