

NCUC Trip Proposal

1) Number of Travelers: 1

2) Traveller Contact Information and Itinerary:

Person: Karel Douglas

Constituency: NCUC

Email: douglaskarel@gmail.com

Country: Trinidad and Tobago

Region: Latin America and the Caribbean

Itinerary: 24th April, 2015: Depart Trinidad – via Panama – Bogota

29th April, 2015: Depart Bogota – via Panama - Trinidad

I am kindly requesting 5 nights/4 days to cater for the conference dates.

3) Event/Conference Name, Title, or Description:

ICSW 2016 – International Civic Society Week 2016

The conference brings together over 600 participants from civil society organisations around the world in civil society's premiere global gathering of inspired thinkers, innovation leaders, and influential organisations which seek to engage constructively in finding common solutions to global challenges.

4) Event/Conference dates:

25th – 28th April, 2016

5) Event/Conference Website Link:

<http://civicus.org/ICSW/>

6) Primary Event/Conference Location:

Universidad Externado de Colombia, Calle 12 No. 1-17 Este , Bogota , Columbia

7) ICANN Geographic Region:

Latin America and the Caribbean

8) Activity Sponsors:

Main sponsor is CIVICUS. Civicus is a global alliance of civil society organisations and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world.

The conference is also sponsored by CCONG which is the national platform of NGOs in Colombia.

9) Proposed Goals and Outcomes:

The conference brings together many civil society organisations with the aim of achieving various important objectives including networking, multi-stakeholder engagement etc (see objectives below). NCUC represents the interests of civil society at ICANN and would gain from the activities of other civil societies who are sharing this space to discuss their respective efforts. More importantly the conference offers a unique opportunity for outreach activities at the ICSW wherein the activities of NCUC can be highlighted and shared amongst other civil society organisations.

I have written to the organisers indicating my interest in partnering or engaging with other civil society organisations in a the programme or holding a session to highlight the work of the NCUC

Outreaches activities concerning the work of the NCUC promises to bear fruit as the potential to create synergies amongst like-minded people is extremely promising. There is a captive audience of civil society persons who are committed to ensuring the success and vibrancy of civil society organisations. Undoubtedly there would be cross fertilisation of ideas on the issues being discussed at the conference which include multi-stakeholder engagement, networking , accountability etc.

The key objectives of the conference from their website are:

- **Connect** the different sources and forces of citizen action, empowering civil society to be more robust and effective, ensuring diversity and multi-stakeholder engagement, and encouraging both formal and informal networking.
- **Share** tools and experiences for enhancing citizen action, facilitating capacity building trainings and activities, amplifying citizen voice through social media & technology, and building awareness of the importance of a vibrant civic space, with the special focus on how to enhance national and global monitoring and accountability.
- **Celebrate** the power of innovation to affect social change, enhancing citizen participation and promoting sustainability, highlighting innovative leaders and stories of change.

Source: <http://civicus.org/ICSW/index.php/en/>

CIVCUS is a global conference that NCUC should have presence. The potential for outreach is great because the conference attracts hundreds of likeminded persons from Civil society organisations around the world who share in the goals, ideals and beliefs of civil society. The opportunities to share and network are seemingly endless. Moreover the objectives of the conference – ‘ensuring diversity and multi-stakeholder engagement, networking , empowering civil society to be more robust’ are valuable lessons that will NCUC can identify with and benefit from.

Kindly submitted by:

Mr. Karel Douglas (LLB LEC LLM)