## **GINet Project**

The Government of Saint Lucia (GOSL) by way of responding to both the problems of



urban-rural digital divide and low home Internet penetration rate requested the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to assist in the development and implementation of the Government Island-wide Network (GINet) Project.

The GINet project will assist Saint Lucia in the development and implementation of the

Government Island-wide Network and assist in developing 'Wireless Local Area Network, WLAN' connection to public areas. As a result, the project will enable the general public, tourists and business passengers to use the free wireless LAN in public areas, in addition, it will enhance Internet penetration and also motivate the government and enterprises to provide a wide range of innovative applications on this public Internet infrastructure.

Currently the GINet project has expanded and completed work at 32 sites.



Establishing a Wireless Local Area Network and installing Ninty-Four (94) wireless access points in areas around Saint Lucia. Additionally, 70 wireless access points will be added to the fibre optic network in the following areas: Castries: 18 wireless Aps; Micoud: 11 wireless Aps; Vieux-Fort: 16 wireless Aps; Canaries: 6 wireless Aps and Dennery: 19 wireless Aps.

The GINET will set the foundation for an incubating environment to foster greater information sharing among all groups of our society and facilitate ability development and applied innovation by creating educational and business opportunities and the promotion of tourist services in Saint Lucia.



The 2010 Population and Housing Census indicated that Internet penetration in Saint Lucia was at only 43% with most persons who have access residing in Castries and Gros Islet. The statistics further suggested the existence of a significant digital divide where many communities were at a great disadvantage with regard to internet access.

To clarify, when the statistics said "no internet access", this meant no internet access whatsoever, whether from mobile service provider, school, work a friend's house or even an internet cafe. Therefore, many Saint Lucians do not have access to this essential tool which could make a big difference in their education; their personal development; and their ability to keep up with the rest of the world.

Internet access would also allow for us to benefit from business development opportunities which, as we recognise, are now more often published or offered through social media and other new age internet-based communication avenues. Internet

access, as we know, is becoming more and more essential to our survival and this "Internet deficiency" is definitely not acceptable.

## Appendix 1 (GINet Expansion)

	Location	External AP	Internal AP	Total
#				
1	La Feuille Mother &Father's Hall	1	1	2
2	La Bourne HR Center	1	1	2
3	Gros Islet HR Center	3	5	8
4	Pegion Island	13	2	15
5	Fond Assua Community Centre	2	1	3
6	Garrand Community Centre	1	1	2
7	La Guerre Community Centre	1	1	2
8	Desremeaux Community Centre	1	1	2
9	Barre Denis Court	1	1	2
10	Anse La Raye (Fish area)	2		2
11	Anse La Raye (Health Centre)	2		2
12	Choisuel Playing Field	2		2
13	Ti Rocher Tennis Court Area	2		2
14	Ti Rocher playing field	2		2
15	Desruisseaux Multipurpose Centre and Playing area	2	2	4
16	Anse Ger Playing field area	3		3
17	Tete Chemen HR	1	1	2
18	Chase Gardens HR	2	3	5
19	Riviere Mitant HR	1	1	2
20	La Toc Road (Banans Playing Field)	3		3
21	Marigo HRDC Center	1	1	2
22	Praslin Community Centre	1	1	2
23	Mon Repos Community Centre	1	2	3
24	Patience Multipurpose Court	2		2
25	Myette Gardens Community Facility	1		1
26	Micoud Children Development Recreational Park	1		1
27	Micoud Village Market	2		2
28	La Cou Doo	2		2
29	Black Star	4		4
30	Wilton's Yard	3		3

32	Castries Provisions Market	4		4
	Total	69	25	94