



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

The Cabinet Office

Department of Communication and Information

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Hector's World launched in Bermuda during Techweek 10

Hector's World, a digital citizenship resource for 2-9 year olds, is being launched in Bermuda during the national TechWeek '10 celebration.

Hector's World is from New Zealand and has a wealth of resources for young children and their teachers and parents, with a particular focus on online safety.

The Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and E-Commerce, the Hon J. Michael J. Scott, JP, MP, said: "In this age of advanced technology, the flow of information is readily accessible to even the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community. It is important to ensure that online access is safe for all our children."

In May 2008, www.cybertips.bm, Bermuda's website dedicated to online safety was launched and at TechWeek last year, the cybertips website mascot, a Bermuda skink, was given the name Cyber Cyd, which was the winning entry from a primary school contest to name him.

The Cybertips website featuring Cyber Cyd, provides a link from which children can now connect to Hector and his friends. Whether from home, school or even via mobile phone, Bermuda children can now enjoy the wealth of resources Hector's World offers: animated episodes, puzzles, music videos, games, songs, and more. The Hector's World website is a fantastic learning resource, perfect for use with the many computers and interactive whiteboards in Bermuda classrooms.

Liz Butterfield, Managing Director of New Zealand charity Hector's World Ltd. said: "We are delighted Bermuda children will now be learning with Hector's World. This education helps build the skills and values children will need for life online and can begin whenever a child first starts using technology. The Department of E-Commerce has been doing a great job promoting education to minimise the risks and maximise the benefits online technologies have to offer the people of Bermuda. Now Hector and his friends can help with this education of your youngest citizens in homes and classrooms. I know Hector will feel right at home in the beautiful blue waters of Bermuda."



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Ms. Butterfield will be giving a special workshop on Hector's World to the public, parents and educators, tomorrow, Wednesday, April 28 at 5:30, at Cathedral Hall.

Hector's World is already used in New Zealand, the UK, and Australia. Bermuda is the newest country partner and the first one from the North American and Caribbean region. Hector's World* will be launching in other countries later this year.

Ends