



V INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

*Under the Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic
With the Patronage of the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers*

Infopoverty World Conference Actors and strategies for development: digital technology and fight to poverty in connection with the world

Milan, May, 4th 2005 – The fifth edition of the Infopoverty World Conference will be held on **May 12 – 13th** in **New York** at UN Headquarters and in **Milan** at Politecnico and Università Cattolica. Parallel sessions connected via videoconference will be held in Baghdad in **Iraq**, Muhura in **Rwanda**, Window Rock in **Arizona** with the Navajo community, in **Beijing**, at the UNESCO headquarters in **Paris** and in the Tunisian village of **Borj Touil**.

The main theme of the Conference, *Actors and strategies for development: digital technology and fight to poverty*, underlines the basic role new communication technologies have in order to achieve the **Millennium Development Goals** (www.developmentgoals.org), set by Heads of State and Government during the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at the United Nations, whose realization term has been fixed for 2015 and that constitute a planetary pact between rich and emerging Countries, based on the mutual commitment to do as much as necessary to build a safer, more prosperous and equal for everybody world.

Their importance is crucial under the light of development model that may involve all the people of the world: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, eliminating sexual disparity, fighting environment decline, assuring to everybody the access to universal primary instruction, sanitary cures and water, decreasing child mortality, fighting AIDS.

The satellite videoconference connections with villages of the various continents are intended as concrete examples of how the millennium development goals can be reached; in particular, the chancellors of three Iraqi universities, involved in the difficult process of reconstruction of the educative system of the Country will speak from Baghdad; Prof. **Alberto Colorni**, Director of **METID** (Methods and Innovative Technologies for Didactic) Centre of Politecnico, will illustrate the **laboratory project** to contrast *digital divide* in the Muhura community of Rwanda.

The creation of a Computer Lab at the Sauli Lyceum of Muhura, the insertion of an informatics course in the didactical activities, the creation of satellite connection in the Computer Lab, the informatics alphabetisation course for local workers, the formation course for the teachers of Lyceum to technologies and didactical methodologies, and the constitution of a Lyceum's newspaper with the correlate committee of redaction are the objectives already achieved by the project.

The afternoon of May, 12th will also enjoy the satellite connection with the Navajo community of **Window Rock** in **Arizona**, whose President, **Joe Shirley Jr.**, will illustrate which benefits have been achieved by the whole community thanks to the use of advanced technologies. The Navajo Nation will also be host of a special American “antenna” of OCCAM (Observatory on new communication technologies, created in 1997 by UNESCO).

During the two days of the event, the Infopoverty World Conference will also be connected to the village of **Borj Touil** in **Tunisia**, where it will be presented the ICT model pre-arranged for the Summit on Information Society to take place in Tunis in November 2005; to the UNESCO headquarters in **Paris**, that will host the ICT for Capacity Building conference, to the University of **Constantine (Algeria)** and to **Beijing**.

What's Infopoverty?

Infopoverty is a Program born in UN ambit and coordinated by OCCAM (the Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication created by UNESCO in 1997) that involves more than 100 international institutions and national entities participating since 2001 in the annual Infopoverty World Conference, promoted by the European Parliament under aegis of the United Nations, and under the High Patronage of the President of Italian Republic and the Patronage of the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers.

Infopoverty is a common platform aimed at fighting poverty through an innovative use of Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) regarded as tools able to provide broadband wireless services, (such as telemedicine, e-government, e-learning...) to support development in the most disadvantaged communities.. The aim of the Infopoverty Program is working so that the digital revolution can become instrument for a sustainable development that gives to communities the possibility to promote themselves as socio-economically valid subjects. Infopoverty is open to the contribute of those, institutions and agencies, contribute to the concrete promotion of human rights a component of their mission. At the same time, besides the social implications, the Infopoverty Program represents also an opportunity for the ICT sector agencies to broaden markets in emerging Countries.

For further information:

www.infopoverty.net - OCCAM

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