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Observatory for  
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Audiovisual  
Communication



Mediterranean  
Programme



Politecnico di  
Milano



Università  
Cattolica

## 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*

### **Program of the V Infopoverty World Conference Actors and strategies for development: digital technology and fight to poverty**

Milan, May, 4<sup>th</sup> 2005 - The title of the fifth edition of the Infopoverty World Conference is: **“Actors and strategies for development: digital technology and fight to poverty”**. The two days will be divided in various sessions that will focus on the **digital divide** in the **world** and in advanced realities like **Europe** and **Italy**, and the **digital opportunity** as development engine.

The **opening session** will take place on **May, 12<sup>th</sup>**, at **3.00 pm** in **Room S.01** at the **Politecnico of Milan** and it will be connected to the UN Headquarters in New York, where Pierpaolo Saporito, President of OCCAM, Guido Bertucci, Director of UNDESA and Ambassador Marcello Spatafora will inaugurate the Conference; from Milan a representative of Prof. **Giulio Ballio**, Dean of the Politecnico of Milan, and **Giampio Bracchi**, President of the Politecnico Foundation. The direct connection with Baghdad will allow the possibility to focus on the problematic reconstruction, with the interventions of **Wael Nurreddin al-Rifai**, President of the Baghdad Technology University, and Dr. **Mohammed Sadiq**, President of the University of Salahaddin.

The following session will be devoted to **“Fight digital divide as brake for development”**, and will enjoy the participation, among the others, of important academics and personalities such as Alberto Rovetta, Professor of Robotic at Politecnico, Alberto Colorni of Metid and Renato Cortinovis, of the Rotary International Alphabetisation Commission.

At **4.30 pm**, Antonio Emmanuelli of the Italian Infopoverty Network, Francesco Iarlori, ICT Adviser of OCCAM, and Pierpaolo Celeste, Adviser of INAIL will intervene on the importance to **“Promote the digital opportunities as a development engine”**.

Stefano Cacciaguerra, of the General Directorate of Cooperation Development of the Foreign Ministry will round up the sessions held on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

In the afternoon of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, various satellite teleconference connections are expected with the **village of Muhura in Rwanda**, with the **Navajo community of Window Rock in Arizona**, with the **Constantine University in Algeria** and with other institutions.

On **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**, the **Università Cattolica** will host the **first session** focused on **“Roles and strategies of the new Europe to fight poverty through the new communication technologies”** at the presence of the following European Parliament Members: Mario Mauro, Vice President of the European Parliament, Vittorio Agnoletto, Pia Locatelli, Mario Mantovani, Cristiana Muscardini, Pierantonio Panzeri, Guido Podestà and Maria Grazia Cavenaghi Smith, Director of the European Parliament Office in Milan.

The following session will be devoted to the **“Main actors and ICT strategies during emergencies and rescue actions”** with Cristina Castelli, Director of the Emergency Master at Università Cattolica of Milan, with Alberto Piatti, President of AVSI (Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale).

Sessions will resume at **3.00 pm** to discuss on **“Business Strategies of ICT Companies to serve Millennium Goals”** with Agostino Fusconi, Director of the Economic Sciences and Operational Administration Department of the Università Cattolica of Milan, Federico Rajola, Director of CeTIFe, and with Mario Zanone Poma, President of Banca Intesa Mediocredito.

At **4.30 pm** the focus will move to the **Borj Touil Digital Village** in **Tunisia**, realised on a project ideated during the previous edition of the Infopoverty World Conference and that will be **inaugurated** during the next **World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)** in **November 2005**.

The last session of the day will be at **5.00 pm** and will have as main subject **“UN Strategies for WSIS 2005”**, at the presence of **Anton Mangstl**, Director of FAO Library Division, and **Hugh Peterken**, Head of the Technological Division of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Conference will also be connected with the **UNESCO** Headquarters in **Paris**, and **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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