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OBSERVATORY FOR CULTURAL AND AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

*OCCAM and the University of Oklahoma conclude their mission in Madagascar to launch the ICT Village model in Madagascar in the framework of the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development*

At the end of the exploratory mission conducted by OCCAM and the University of Oklahoma in the ambit of the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development in order to launch the ICT Village project in Madagascar, thanks to the support of H.E. Ambassador Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy, some important results were achieved:

- The seat of the project as been individuated in the village of Sambaina, District of Manjakandriana
- The local technical working group has been created under the chairmanship of Mr. Alfred Razafindratsinjra, Mayor of Sambaina in order to identify priorities and needs of the community where the project will be implemented
- In a special meeting, OCCAM delegation met with H.E. Marc Ravalomanana, President of the Republic of Madagascar, who agreed on the guidelines of the project and appointed Mr. Ivohasina Razafimahefaas his delegate to the project
- Various meetings with local authorities were carried out, such as those with the Minister of Culture and with high level representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Education and Scientific Research, Decentralisation.

Thus the ICT Village Project, intended as replicable model to fight poverty and contribute achieving the Millennium Development Goals through the use of the ICTs, will be fine tuned to the needs of the community in close partnership with all local authorities and an executive Plan of Action will be redacted and presented to the Authorities and the international community.

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