



XXV INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

PRESS RELEASE IWC 25

Milan and New York, the two leading cities hosting the 25th edition of the INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

On April 17, the 25th edition of the International World Conference (IWC) will open in Milan, a key international event dedicated to the role of digital technologies in promoting sustainable development and combating poverty.

The event, promoted by OCCAM – Observatory for Digital Communication, established under UNESCO – is hosted with the support of the Municipality of Milan, the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Handicraft and Agriculture (CCIAA), Assolombarda, Fondazione Cariplo, and Fiera Milano.

Since 2001, the conference has represented a meeting point for institutions, the scientific community, and the private sector, with over 1,000 speakers involved and projects developed in more than 40 countries. Over time, the IWC event has contributed to spreading solutions to fight poverty, following the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating the central role of ICT in social and economic development.



Among the most significant past initiatives, interventions in villages in Honduras affected by Hurricane Mitch have represented a concrete example of the application of digital technologies for healthcare, education, and food security.

Today, the conference continues to represent a global platform for dialogue and cooperation, with the aim of promoting inclusive and sustainable development models.

Artificial Intelligence: a challenge between war and welfare – the central theme of IWC25

Artificial Intelligence and its impact on the future of humanity are at the core of the 25th edition of the International World Conference (IWC), taking place at the UN Headquarters and simultaneously in Milan. The event raises a crucial question: will AI be a tool for conflict or for global well-being?

Public decision-makers, scientists, and private sector representatives are called upon to engage in a new approach capable of guiding technological evolution toward innovative social and welfare models. Thanks to the development of Artificial Intelligence applications, it is now possible to make sustainable social policies that were once considered too complex or costly. Services such as telemedicine, e-learning, food security, and e-governance represent concrete means to improve quality of life and reduce inequalities.



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From rural communities to global innovation: the ICT Village model at the heart of the 25th IWC

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The 25th edition of the International World Conference (IWC) highlights the potential of digital technologies in transforming rural communities and reducing global inequalities.

Among the main themes of the event is the ICT Village, already internationally recognized, which stands out as a functional solution for bringing innovation, knowledge, and essential services to the most disadvantaged areas. Concrete initiatives carried out by OCCAM in African countries such as Madagascar and Kenya show how the integration of digital technologies, training, and local development can improve living conditions, strengthen agricultural productivity, and promote economic inclusion.

Special focus is also given to the “Bridging” initiative, which proposes a replicable and scalable model to connect rural and urban areas through hubs of knowledge and skills. These infrastructures, supported by Artificial Intelligence, enable the creation of new job opportunities, the improvement of healthcare services, and access to education, actively involving young local entrepreneurs.

The approach promoted by the IWC aims to go beyond traditional aid models, focusing instead on creating lasting social value and contributing to the reduction of migration pressures.

The conference is confirmed as an international platform for concrete solutions toward more equitable and inclusive development.