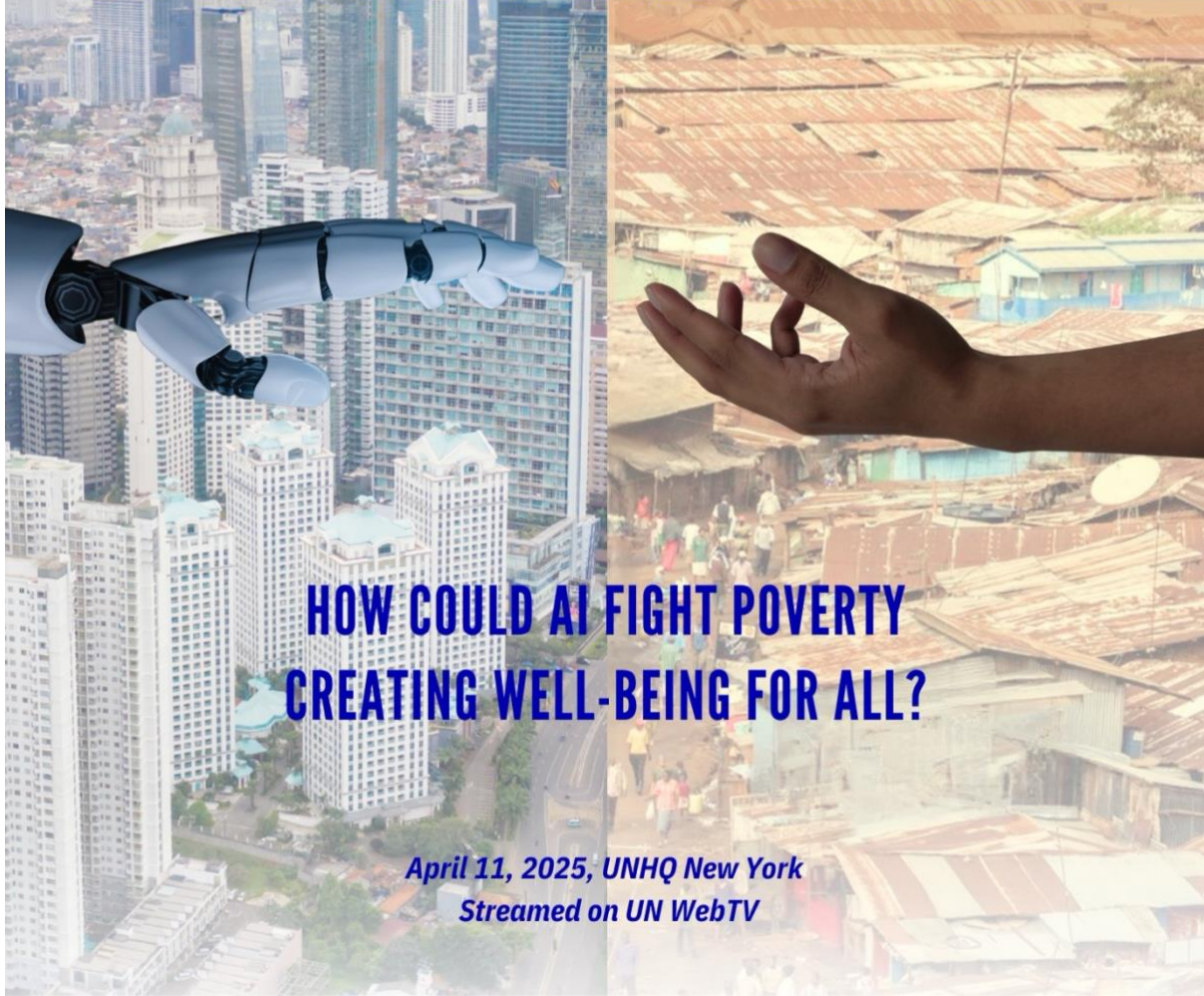DIPARTIMENTO
PER LA TRASFORMAZIONE
DIGITALE

XXIV
INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

HOW COULD AI FIGHT POVERTY
CREATING WELL-BEING FOR ALL?

April 11, 2025, UNHQ New York
Streamed on UN WebTV

WE THANK FOR THE SUPPORT

CICT ICFT at UNESCO — GIACOMINI WATER E-MOTION — TM95 — Society & DIPLOMATIC Review — Variety M-1 Inc. — PAL Impact Foundation

PRESENTATION

The extraordinary acceleration now underway of Artificial Intelligence (AI) appears, alarmingly, to be increasingly geared toward enhancing military capabilities rather than benefiting humanity in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), building peace, and promoting social justice. There is a great risk of repeating the history of the aftermath of the Industrial Revolution when the concentration on military applications of technological advancement led to two devastating world wars.

At this moment in history, the ability of the United Nations, born from the ashes of these tragic events, to fulfill its mission of preventing their recurrence in the future depends, to a significant degree, on enhancing the Organization's capacity to harness the commitment of all actors – governments, civil society, the private sector – to orient AI and its many current and potential applications towards achieving this basic aim. The *Pact for the Future*, adopted by the General Assembly on September 22, 2024 (A/Res/70/1), and the *Global Digital Compact*, approved as an integral component of the Pact, testify to a renewed commitment by the international community to move decisively in this direction and to act to leverage digital innovations toward the fulfillment of the SDGs. The Infopoverty World Conference is committed to making a distinct contribution to this crucial effort.

Launched in 2001 at the dawn of the digital era, the Conference has sought throughout the past 25 years to showcase and advocate for the key contribution that new digital technologies could make to the implementation of the UN Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) first and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) now, in their overriding objective of fighting poverty and sustaining socio-economic progress. Drawing on the contribution of over 1000 eminent thought leaders and practitioners who have contributed to its annual sessions at the UN, the Conference has, over the years, served to bring to light and, indeed, support the actual delivery of concrete, effective solutions addressing the key factors that underly poverty and cause its persistence. A consistent focus in this perspective has been on ICT applications that serve to expand access to essential services such as healthcare and food security, giving special attention to capacity building and training to ensure sustainability. Among the Conference's early accomplishments was the realization, as part of the Infopoverty Program, of the "e-welfare4all" Project that was endorsed at the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and served to launch the ICT Village model. First realized in Borj Touil (Tunisia), the model was replicated and optimized in Sambaina (Madagascar), proclaimed "UN Millenium Village" in 2007.

The identification of best practices and the presentation of concrete projects ready to be endorsed will continue to be the central feature of the forthcoming **24th edition of the Conference**. The main focus of presentations during the sessions will be on the unique contribution that AI – as a powerful agent of innovation but equally important of "simplification" in the basic sense of the ancient "Occam's Razor principle" – can make to streamlining and accelerating project implementation processes and maximizing their cost-effectiveness, and to spreading their benefits and optimizing their governance.

At this stage, the Conference aims to be an integral part of the important effort underway to engage governments, major corporations, and public and private institutions in a renewed effort to advance the UN vision for development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and to orient in that crucial sense the further development of AI, guided by the principles and actions embodied in the Global Digital Compact.

PREPARATORY MEETINGS

UN-HABITAT Expert Group Meeting
April 17/19, 2024, Jinja, Uganda – online

Under the Memorandum of Understanding signed with UN-HABITAT, OCCAM participated in the UN-HABITAT Expert Group Meeting that took place on April 17/19, 2024, in Jinja, Uganda, and online. The meeting focused on the intersection of intermediary cities, biodiversity, and technology for urban-rural linkages and also served as a platform for the contribution of two research papers – about cooperation guide for intermediary cities via the lens of food flows and biodiversity and e-commerce solutions for the food systems. Ms. Martina Baldessin, Program Officer at OCCAM and on behalf of Arch. Pierpaolo Saporito, President of OCCAM, recalled the relevance of ICT tools and digital innovations in delivering e-services for all, especially in the field of food security, where OCCAM has contributed by designing and creating the PlantHead Platform within the Horizon 2020 EWABELT Project (GA#862848). The Platform stands out as a pivotal instrument for remote plant testing and disease detection, fostering real-time diagnosis and eco-friendly crop protection to address food insecurity challenges.

International Youth Day Conference 2024
August 24, 2024 – online

OCCAM participated in the International Youth Day Conference 2024, held on August 24, 2024, online, on the theme "*Transforming Our Children's Educational Career Contents: Leveraging Global Advancements in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Upskilling them to Boost National Productivity," is designed to shape the future of education and career development for young people across Africa".* Organized by the Programos Foundation, the event aimed to expand the reach or effectiveness of innovative solutions, encouraging more robust development and application of new, sustainable technologies or methods across various sectors. In his statement, Arch. Pierpaolo Saporito, President of OCCAM, recalled the importance of adopting new approaches to transforming education and career opportunities for children, enhancing the existing ones with a parallel system that provides the necessary digital infrastructure and support, such as online classes. In particular, this integration prioritizes bridging the divides between rural and urban areas, genders, languages, and cultures, fostering a win-win process for all in the respect of human rights for all.

XXVI Euromediterranean Conference on Cinema
"Mobile cinema Mobile cinema: a new koine for young Euromediterraneans to foster peace and tolerance?"
September 6, 2024, 81. Venice International Film Festival, La Villa, Lido di Venezia

As a partner of CICT ICFT, OCCAM organized and took part in the XXVI Euromediterranean Conference on Cinema that explored the new cultural dimension that emerged with the advent of digital technologies – a new koine – and offered guiding principles for a significant encounter of people, civilizations, and dialogues, expanding the vision to encompass a global dimension. The Final Declaration of the Conference was submitted to UNESCO for the records and operates as a reference point for a controversial and complicated topic that necessarily requires a reflection and dialogue at the highest institutional, political, and social levels with the involvement of experts and professionals from the film, artistic and cultural fields as well as Civil Society in view of operative synergies in all sectors.

EWA-BELT General Assembly
September 24, 2024, Spazio Cairoli, Milan, Italy

As a partner of the Horizon2020 EWA-BELT Project (GA#862848), OCCAM participated in the EWA-BELT General Assembly, which took place on September 24, 2024, in Milan. The event gathered the partners of the EWA-BELT Consortium, who presented the main outcomes achieved, as well as external stakeholders. On that occasion, OCCAM, together with the University of Sassari, illustrated the main features and the latest development of the PlantHead Platform as well as a strategic vision for future developments.

World Food Forum 2024
October 14-18, 2024, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

On the occasion of the fourth edition of the World Food Forum, a delegation from OCCAM participated in two days of the event. During this time, the delegation attended the inaugural opening ceremony as well as the High-Level Panels at the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum. Food security is a fundamental pillar of OCCAM's mission, as it is closely linked to sustainable development and the fight against poverty. Ensuring access to food through innovative and digital solutions means promoting the well-being of the most vulnerable communities and fostering inclusive and equitable growth processes.

AGENDA

Drawing from the insights elaborated in the past Final Declarations, the 24th Infopoverty World Conference intends to explore the role of ICTs and Artificial intelligence in empowering communities as an essential step toward global e-welfare. In doing so, the discussion will delve into how such innovative tools can be used as efficient and adequate means to provide e-welfare for eradicating poverty, assure health for all, as well as adequate education, ending hunger, and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

10:00 – 10:30 am (EDT) – Opening Session
Opening greetings
H.E. MARCO ROMITI, *Minister Counsellor,* Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations
H.E. ALBERTO BARACHINI, *Undersecretary of State,* Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy

General introduction
PIERPAOLO SAPORITO, *President*, OCCAM and Infopoverty Programme, Italy

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10:30 – 11:30 am (EDT) - First Session
AI is changing all paradigms: How can it be focused on achieving the SDGs?
The rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence are reshaping traditional paradigms across various sectors, holding the potential to accelerate progress toward achieving (SDGs); as AI evolves, it is crucial to understand how it can be effectively guided and applied, in line with the UN values and human rights.

Chair: **PATRIZIO CIVILI**, *Special Advisor to the Director-General,* IDLO, *Former UN Assistant Secretary General*, Italy

AMIR DOSSAL, *President and CEO,* Global Partnerships Forum, UK
ERNESTO R. OTTONE, *Assistant Director-General for Culture*, UNESCO, France
H.E. STAN ODUMA SMITH, Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the UN
NICCOLÒ RINALDI, *Head of Unit for Asia, Australia and New Zealand,* European Parliament, Italy

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11:30 am – 1:00 pm (EDT) - Second Session
Bridging rural-urban communities: how AI could ensure e-welfare4all
The development of rural villages inspired by urban models has the potential to bridge the rural-urban divide. In this context, the Infopoverty Global Platform is designed to deliver essential services such as food-security, healthcare, education, and e-governance to rural areas, enriching state digitalization and promoting sustainable development, in line with the mission of UN-HABITAT.

Chair: **MELCHIADE BUKURU**, *Former Director*, UNCCD Liaison Office in New York, USA

REMY SIETCHIPING, *Chief Policy, Legislation and Governance Section,* UN-HABITAT Nairobi, Kenya introduces:
   Video reportage from rural villages:
   - Kenton Village, *Nyandarua County* & Muchorwi Village, *Nakuru County (Kenya)*
   - Tungan Mallam, *Local Government Area: Paikoro* & Labozhi, *Local Government Area: Mokwa*, *Niger State (Nigeria)*

RABEHARIZAFY HENINTSOA OLIVA, UN Millenium Village of Sambaina, Madagascar

GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR E-SERVICES WELFARE, *presented by **Giovanni Zanoni** (OCCAM)*

IVAN SHUMKOV, *Founder & CEO*, Build Academy, *Adjunct Associate Professor*, Columbia University, Bulgaria
EMMANUEL AMOS, *Founder*, Programos Foundation, Nigeria
H. HARUNA SANI SANI, *Director General,* Nasarawa State Information Technology and Digital Economy Agency (NASITDEA), Nasarawa State Government, Nigeria
MOMO BERTRAND, *Education Specialist*, World Bank, USA

ANDREA A. GIACOMINI, *CEO* & **MARIAMA SAMAKE,** *Institutional Relations, Public Affairs,* Giacomini Spa, Italy
ANDREA BIGHINZOLI, *Marketing Director,* Giacomini Spa, Italy
PAOLO ARRIGONI, *President,* GSE (Gestore dei Servizi Energetici), Italy

Dr. CHRISTABEL APHOLUNG NGWASHI, *Health Specialist*, World Bank, USA
KUDZAYI MUNYAKA, *Data Privacy Specialist,* International Monetary Fund, USA

2:00 – 3:30 pm (EDT) – Third Session
Implementing Telemedicine around the world
The transformative potential of telemedicine is expanding access to healthcare services, particularly for underserved communities, holding the potential to reduce the gap in healthcare delivery by improving efficiency and enhancing accessibility and affordability of medical care for all.

Chair: **CLAUDIO AZZOLINI MD,** *Founder,* Eumeda Telemedicine Platform*, Advisory Council of e-Health and Telemedicine,* Insubria University, Varese-Como, Italy

DONALD J. D'AMICO MD, *Professor and Chair,* Israel Englander Department of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College; *Ophthalmologist-in-Chief,* New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, USA
FRANCESCO OGGIONNI ITS, *Advisory Board Member,* CDAOS.cat non-profit Data & Digital Health Innovation*,* Sanofi Global Data AI Platform & Application Services Lines Manager*,* Barcelona, Spain
ANDREA FALCO PEng, *CEO,* Alfa Design Studio, Italy
CLAUDE BOSCHER MD, *Former Surgeon,* Pôle Tête et Cou, Hôpital Américain de Paris, Neuilly sur Seine, France
SIMONE DONATI MD, *Associate Professor,* Department of Medicine and Surgery, Insubria University, Varese-Como, Italy
ANTONIO CAPONE Jr MD FACS, *Associated Retinal Consultants,* Royal Oak, MI, USA
ANAT LOEWENSTEIN, MD, MHA, *Professor and Director,* Division of Ophthalmology, Tel Aviv University, Israel
ANTOINE GEISSBÜHLER, MD, *Dean of the faculty of medicine, Head of the division of eHealth and telemedicine*, University Hospitals, Geneva, CH
VALTER SANTAROSSA Attorney, *Former regional Council member dealing with healthcare and President of INSIEL*, ICT company for healthcare IT management, Italy.

3.30 – 5:00 pm (EDT) - Fourth Session
How can AI accelerate the Nation building and modernization process?

Enhancing efficiency through broader participation, empowering people's skills to accelerate well-being, ensuring e-welfare for all, and promoting clean energy.

Chair: **ALIYE ÇELIK**, *Co-Chair & President*, Consortium for Sustainable Development (CSU), USA.

JUDE ELIE, *President and CEO*, Jude Elie Foundation, Haiti
JEAN NATHAN LETANG, *President*, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Haiti, Haiti
ELIZABETH JEANTY, *Executive Director*, Haitian American Historical Society, Inc, Haiti
GUY MELEANCE, *President,* Ayitek Corp, *IT Expert*, Haiti
JOSEPH GEORGE DUPERVAL, *Entrepreneur and Philantropist,* Haiti
ANDRE DZIKUS, *Director,* New York Office, UN-HABITAT, Germany
JULIA HAART, *Entrepreneur*, USA

BASUDEB PAL, *Founder*, AI Ethics Advisory Group, *Chairman*, Palif Foundation, USA
SUBIR SAHA, *Chairman,* National American & Indian Chamber Of Commerce
TOSHIAKI MITAKE, *President*, Variety M-1 Inc, Japan
GLORIA STARR KINS, *Editor in Chief & Publisher,* Society Diplomatic Review, USA

5:00 – 6:00 pm (EDT) – Closing Session
New global languages: rebuilding the Babel tower?
The communication structure is moving from human logic to machine algorithm, able to optimize complexity and create new forms of culture: movies, pictures, codes, from virtual, is shaping the world.

Chair: **PIERPAOLO SAPORITO**, as *President a.i.,* International Council for Film and Television (CICT-ICFT), official partner of UNESCO, Italy

RIZWAN AHAMD, *Director,* Instructional Media Centre – MANUU, India
KUTJIM CASHKU, *Director*, Akademia e Filmit DHE Multimedias Marubi, Albania
SALMANE TARIQ EL ALLAMI, *University Professor*, Faculty of Educational Sciences, Mohammed V University, Rabat, *Founder,* ISCA Film School Founder, Morocco

CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY (1926-2026) OF THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE AT THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS *presented by **Martina Mihovska** (CICT Italian Committee)*

JASMINA BOJIC, *Founder and Executive Director*, UNAFF & UNAFF Traveling Film Festival, Stanford University, US presents:
    ICFT CICT/UNESCO with 19th UNAFF Traveling FF & Signs of Change FF
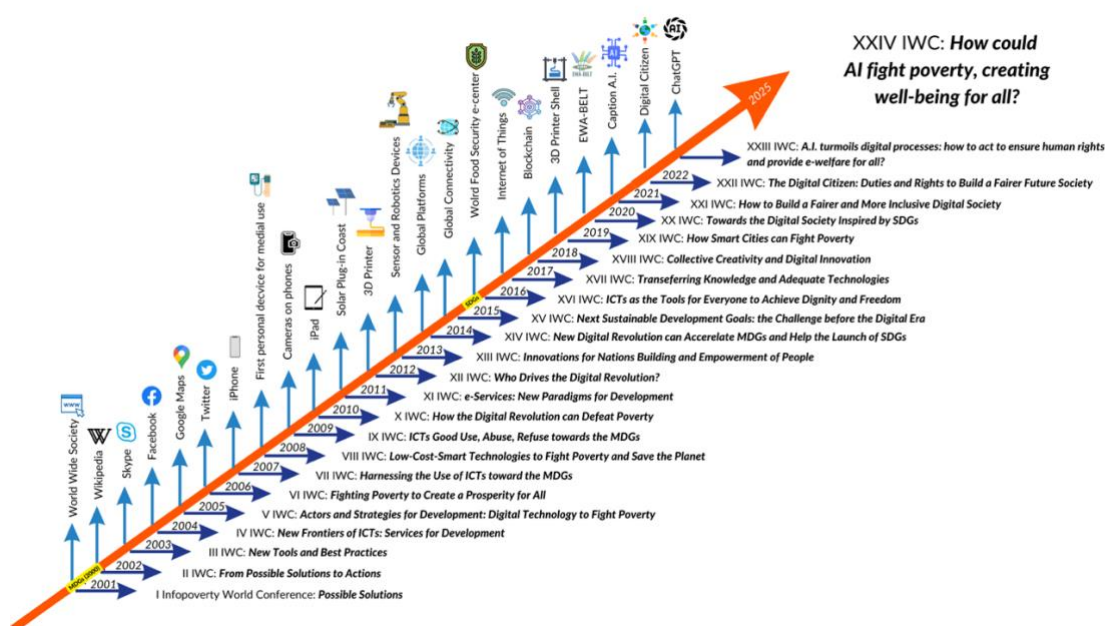   ***MATTHEW MODINE'S RIPPLE EFFECT** (US – 8 min) by Matthew Modine*

GENERAL DISCUSSION
FINAL DECLARATION

HISTORY of the CONFERENCE

The first [Infopoverty World Conference](#) was organized by OCCAM in June 2001, on the momentum of the signature of the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations, where the joining States were committed to the achievement of the eight Millennium Development Goals. The Conference represents, for its continuity, operational capability and strong interoperability with the UN System, a unique global forum, gathering leading experts, academics, opinion leaders, managers, government officials and philanthropists. Working in collaboration with the European Parliament Liaison Office, various UN bodies, the C. Smithers Foundation and other scientific and academic institutions, the Infopoverty World Conference rallies leaders worldwide to operate for the realization of the ICT4D tasks. Throughout the years, the Conference has continuously addressed the advancements brought about by the Digital Revolution and has progressively discovered and launched best practice models in the fields of telemedicine, e-learning, e-agriculture, and e-finance, followed by their successful implementation in many African and Latin American remote villages and disadvantaged communities.

25 YEARS OF DIGITAL REVOLUTION IN THE WORDS OF ITS PROTAGONISTS

The [e-Book](#), edited by OCCAM, is a precise synthesis of each year's conference, with posters, agendas, main contributions, and final declarations. The work represents a helpful and significative synthesis of the cooperation's experience between the United Nations and OCCAM.

This Book constitutes a unique point of reference for the digital revolution since 2000, discussing the increasing flow of innovations, with an evaluation in terms of capacity to accelerate the achievements of MDGs and SDGs with concrete ICT solutions experimented on the ground in the ICT Villages, in synergy with more than two thousand high-level speakers, expressing the mood of these crucial twenty-one years.

INFOPOVERTY PROGRAMME

To realize the suggestions emerging from the discussion, the **Infopoverty Programme** was established to concretely help the poorest and most disadvantaged populations in the developing world through the use of ICTs. The Infopoverty Programme operates as the executive arm of the deliberations of the Infopoverty World Conferences stated in the final declarations drafted at the end of each Conference. It puts into practice the guidelines issued by the Conference through the creation of the ICT Village Model. Such a model follows a process of flexible intervention easily replicable in many areas of the globe and provides various services designed to promote endogenous and sustainable development processes. ***Find out more on*** *occam.org/infopoverty-programme*
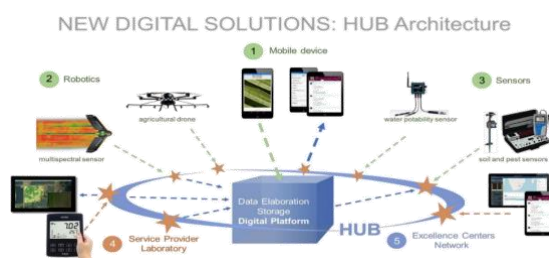
ICT Villages

The ICT Village Model follows a process of intervention flexible and easily replicable in many areas of the globe, providing various services designed to promote endogenous and sustainable development process. The first ICT village project was carried out in 1999 in Honduras hit by the devastating hurricane Mitch. Thanks to the use of solar panels, the supply of electricity was guaranteed. A connection to 108 mb/sec for more than 30,000 people, a real record for the time, enabled the creation of the first e-learning and telemedicine services, allowing the population to use these new technologies advantageously and to connect to the rest of the world through e-commerce and e-government initiatives. ***Find out more on*** *occam.org/infopoverty-programme*

The World Food Security e-Center

The World Food Security e-Center (WFSeC) aims to provide digital services to support agricultural development and food security, transferring technologies and knowledge from the excellent network of Italian universities and laboratories directly to populations and communities in need through a high connectivity digital Platform, using new sensors and robotic devices able to collect and receive data. The project was presented on the occasion of EXPO Milano 2015 and took its legacy in the following years to put into concrete action its core principles. ***Find out more on*** *occam.org/e-services.*

EWABELT PROJECT

The most relevant and effective implementation of the WFSeC is EWA-BELT, an EU Horizon2020 project (GA 862848) aimed at developing the sustainable intensification of agriculture productions in organic, agroforestry and mixed crop and livestock farming systems in 38 study areas of 6 countries belonging to East (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania) and West (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Sierra Leone) Africa. It is coordinated by the University of Sassari (Italy) and carried out by a consortium of 20 partners from Europe and Africa. Through integrated participative research, innovative tools and identification and dissemination of best practices, all countries will be linked into an interregional East-West African BELT able to reinforce sustainable intensification in agriculture. The Internet of Things and e-Agriculture in EWA-BELT will be managed through the PLANTHEAD platform. The Platform will also allow for the creation of a database for scientific research and possibly for the use of an Artificial Intelligence for phytopathogenic recognition and diagnostics. Furthermore, taking stock from the World Food Security e-Centre, the project is introducing other highly innovative cost-affordable technologies, to be easily used in the field by unskilled personnel. Technical benefits provided by all implemented techniques are evaluated for their environmental, social, and economic effect on farmers and along the value chain. Finally, EWA-BELT addresses gender issues and women empowerment at every stage of the process. To maximize its impact, project results are disseminated yearly during the Infopoverty World Conference. *Find out more on* ewabelt.eu.

eMedMed

eMedMed is a project born in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean. It aims to bring an innovative and efficient diffusion of health services in Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Egypt through telemedicine. It is the result of the experimentation of over 15 years of applications in various ICT Villages in the field of maternal care, emergencies, cardiology, and traumatology.

The goal is to improve health conditions in Southern Mediterranean countries through the participation of a network of clinical centres and European experts connected with local structures through a specific platform with ICT Solutions and innovative scientific m-devices. The system integrates the resources of hospitals and service centres in the area and the data collected on the field (diagnostic imaging, medical records, patient records, consultations, training, etc.) through the network, optimizing the home care of the patient, reducing costs and improving the use of resources. Due to political uncertainty, the project still needs to be validated.

The 3D Robotic Building System

The 3D Robotic Building System is an innovative technology project designed by the OCCAM ARCHGROUP (Pierpaolo Saporito, Cesare Casati, Ivan Shumkov, Joseph di Pasquale) to provide large scale and fast housing for emarginated people and slums

Resilient Village Network
by OCCAM Design Group 2019

3D printed shell

inhabitants. Due to the low cost and high capacity of inclusion in terms of easy auto-constructions facilities, the project aims at supporting families in disadvantaged areas.

The project, selected at the "Resilient Home" Challenge 2019, promoted by World Bank and UN Habitat, uses this new 3D Robotic Technology to create different housing typologies for slums recovery and emergency, able to realize thousand dwellings a day at minimum cost.

Find out more on occam.org/projects.

Infopoverty Network

The Conference represents a high-level elaboration forum for ICT solutions and digital services for the SDGs achievement. In the past editions we established a strong network of relationships and contacts thanks to the attendance of over <u>two thousand speakers, hundreds of companies and public and private institutions</u>, including:

- **International Organizations:** UN, FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITU, WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, European Space Agency, NASA, World Bank, European Union, Inter-American Development Bank, African Development Bank, CERN, OECD, International Federation of the Red Cross, C. Smithers Foundation
- **National representations:** Albania, Andorra, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, DR Congo, East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Macau, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Territories, Peru, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Vanuatu, Vatican.

- **International Companies**: China, Estonia, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United States

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