

OCCAM agrees to implement projects in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic

A meeting between OCCAM and the Permanent Missions of Madagascar and the Dominican Republic took place in New York on 31 August 2005. Representatives from OCCAM, Dr. John Steffens and Dr. Arthur Cole, presented the project proposals. In the discussions that followed, two projects were agreed in principle to be implemented respectively in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic.



From left to right: Mr. Abraham Joseph (DESA), Ambassador Zina Andrianarivelo Razafy of Madagascar, Dr. John Steffens (OCCAM), Dr. Arthur Cole (OCCAM), Ms. Lila Andrianatoandro (Madagascar)

In this first meeting between OCCAM and the Permanent Mission of Madagascar, the participants were the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations, Ambassador Zina Andrianarivelo Razafy and Ms. Lila Andrianatoandro (Permanent Mission of Madagascar to the UN), Dr. John Steffens and Dr. Arthur Cole (Public Service Institute of University of Oklahoma). Mr. Abraham Joseph and Mr. Ozgun Emre Akinci joined the discussions as facilitators from OESC/DESA.



From left to right: Dr. Arthur Cole (OCCAM), Dr. John Steffens (OCCAM), Ambassador Francis Lorenzo of the Dominican Republic, Mrs. Maria Manon de Paulino (Dominican Republic), Mr. Abraham Joseph (DESA)

In the subsequent meeting between OCCAM and the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic, the participants were Ambassador Francis Lorenzo and Mrs. Maria Manon de Paulino (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the UN), and Dr. John Steffens and Dr. Arthur Cole (Public Service Institute of University of Oklahoma). Mr. Abraham Joseph and Mr. Ozgun Emre Akinci joined this discussion also as facilitators from OESC/DESA.

The first project proposal presented in both meetings was related to the establishment of an ICT Model Village. Dr. Steffens informed that the project will provide access to the digital revolution and its benefits for a sustainable development. Telemedicine, e-learning, e-government, and e-commerce were listed among the advanced services.

The second project proposal that was presented in both the meetings related to a training programme on Fish Farming offered by the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Steffens informed that the project will provide fully sponsored training except for the air fare from their country to New Orleans. The training site may also be changed due to the recent floods.

The Ambassadors of Madagascar and the Dominican Republic in their respective meetings expressed their countries' immediate interest in these two projects.

Other projects that OCCAM informed that it is interested in the UNPPA pilot countries were in the area of safe water development and cooperation with major universities.

The meetings concluded with the decision by OCCAM to prepare the letters of agreement to be signed in the coming weeks with the pilot countries for the execution of the projects.
