

Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication
University of Oklahoma
V Infopoverty World Conference
Issues Paper for Conference Seminar
“ICT Services for Alcoholism-Related Problems”
May 12, 2005
Time: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
23rd Floor Conference Room DC-2 (2 UN Plaza)

A large number of accidents, health hazards, lost productivity, dysfunctional lives, and death can be directly linked to alcohol consumption. Recently the World Health Organization declared alcohol and alcohol abuse the number one health threat to society. It is, as we know, and they confirm, a disease that touches more lives than all other diseases combined. This realization and concern of the international community regarding the escalating problems caused by alcoholism gives us great hope that working together we can move forward toward conquering this disease.

This seminar calls together expert discussants of the professional alcohol prevention and treatment community, and program leaders throughout UN, UNESCO, WHO and the UNISEF international community committed to this cause. The emphasis will include contributions these programs make and materials available—and how through ICT these resources, materials, and programs can be available to even the remotest of nations and communities throughout the world. It will also address successful approaches and programs affecting correlated problems—such as road safety, violence against children and women, incarceration, crime, etc.

The MDG on Road Safety and the European Alcohol Action Plan of 2000-2005 will be discussed together with recommendations and contributions toward the five year review of the millennium goals.

Issues:

- 1) What are the most critical issues that must be addressed to ensure a greater awareness of the problems of alcohol abuse among the world's citizens?
- 2) What are the world trends in the abuse of alcohol that should inform the international community as they consider alcohol policies in their nations?
- 3) How can advocates concerned about alcohol abuse contribute to the achievement of the MDGs?
- 4) How can the experience of the WHO and European Alcohol Action Plan of 2000-2005 contribute to a broader plan and the objectives of the United Nations?
- 5) In what ways can ICT contribute to increased awareness, education and treatment?
- 6) As the five year review of the MGD is conducted, what contributions should be added to the millennium goals to assure adequate focus on the effect that reducing alcohol abuse will have on world health?