

**A short communication of Prof. Martin Nkafu Nkemnkia**

On African Projects LATS and Satellite Workstations in Fontem – Cameroon

**Presentation**

I am Martin Nkafu Nkemnkia and come from Cameroon. I teach Philosophy and Culture; African Religion and Culture; Intercultural Communication at the Pontifical Lateran and Gregorian Universities in Rome.

I am very pleased to participate at this Now-Workshop, organised Net-One's section of ICT here in Rome (Sassone). The contents are very rich and encouraging and I wished it was possible for many African NGO and other bodies and organisation, within the Network Modern Technology – and Communication, were present to benefit from your experience.

**I was asked to be brief and respond to the following questions:**

- What are Africans interested at and what do we expect from the West (Europe) in terms of Communication and Technology?
- What do we African not expect from the Europeans in this field.

**In the third place,**

I will present a small pilot project on Communication technologies and information Technologies (ICT) whose aim of promoting knowledge and dialogue among peoples, groups and cultures and highlight universally shared human values. It's a program of cultural exchange between Schools in Italy and their partners Schools in Cameroon.

The Project is setup by "LATS" Lebialem Association for Twinning of Schools (Fontem – Cameroon) and their partner Group "Scuole in Rete" (Roma – Italia).

**What do we Africans expect from the West – from Europe?**

We first of all expect to have partners with whom we can grow together, contribute in our development in every aspect; help Africa to march up with time and sharing their cultural values with the rest of the world.

This is why we need:

- partners and not masters
- advices from you on how to make projects,
- to participate in the formation programs in every field especially in that of Communication and the use of the modern technologies in this field.

- to be helped to have access in the funds available for development projects in International Organisations as well as the Private ones.
- to offer a chance to you to share your cultural, human and spiritual values with us.
- With you to give birth to a new era, in which, the new generation will feel the world as their own and a peaceful place to live in.
- To work with you to humanise globalisation and put “Man” or human being at the centre of our progress, development and civilisation.
- To asked you to help us in the formation of professionals in Communication, administration and evaluation of our development projects. In this sense, offer us some scholarships for the most willingful but poor candidates.
- to offer us with facilities in order to cope the standard of life attained by you. Technology fields that support and enable the use and exchange of information in digital form for development.
- We request the NGO working in this field to propose to us projects, modalities to realise them as well as, fastening their commitment with Africa in this field, in favour of education, health wise, agriculture area and general education.

#### **What do we want to avoid?**

- That, once more, the world degrades and consider others as inferior being to be exploited in any way and by any means.
- That, instead of sharing views with partners we find ourselves in front of masters, thus, repeating the error of the past.
- Africa remains remote and be used as a place of experiments of the progress of the others. We want to avoid that African people continue to feel themselves inferior to the westerners but be encourage to participate.

Presentation of the Workstation Satellite project for Fontem and the first partner: **Regione Lazio** Roma Italy) with a contribution for the instalment of 14 satellite workstation for communication between Italy and Cameroon, Fontem and Roma.

ESA and UNESCO were verbally contacted to participate in this project, offering facilities in the satellite connection between Italy and Cameroon and Unesco could provide education programs which could be channelled through the media.

When they will desire, we shall formalise an agreement with them for a fruitful partnership with LATS Lebialem – Cameroon for development.