

**Part I**  
**Proceedings of the International Workshop on**  
*Poverty, Health and Development*  
**Bologna, October 2001**

**Opening Address**  
**Dr Enzo Zecchini**

Dear friends,

Warm welcome to everybody. This workshop is a very important and privileged opportunity as it involves so many representatives of various projects supported by AIFO in different continents.

Our Association has chosen to work along with the poor and marginalised persons and population groups, through interventions which aim to assert the right of each one of us to become responsible of our own life and to have the opportunities to fulfil our innate capacities. We claim the right of every human being to live in good health, peacefully and in harmony with environment, in a way, which respects the culture of each one of us. We aim to work together for a future with justice for everyone.

The theme of this workshop is “Poverty & Development”. Your task during these days of the workshop is to clarify the obstacles, which prevent poor persons and marginalised groups from accessing development and to define strategies to overcome those obstacles. Your work during this workshop will be useful for definition of future strategies of work of our Association.

In addition to this specific task, this workshop is also an important opportunity to exchange experiences, to understand and learn from each other.

I am trustful that, beside helping AIFO to define our strategies for reaching the poorest population groups, this workshop will be useful to each one of you to look at your own work through the critical eyes of the others to improve it when you will go back to your own countries.

Thank you for being here with us and may you all have good work during these next days in Bologna.