



OIFIG AN AIRE GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA

(OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS)

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2

(DUBLIN 2)

Mr. Graham O'Rourke
graham.orourke@morsolutions.com

January 2008

Dear Mr. O'Rourke,

Thank you for your email of January 21st in relation to your plans to bring the OpenOffice.org Conference to Co. Louth.

I would be very supportive of your initiative. As a border county, Louth is ideally placed to showcase the economic potential of peace and political stability on our island. The intended setting of Dundalk IT would admirably highlight these opportunities, while the town's close links with Newry would offer an occasion to illustrate the potential of our all-island economy.

I have asked my officials to notify the relevant North/South bodies, Tourism Ireland and InterTradeIreland, of your proposal and I will inform my colleagues the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism of your intention to proceed with this initiative. I would also suggest that you make contact with Joint Secretary Tom Hanney (tom.hanney@dfa.ie) and Mr. Joe Foy (joe.foy@dfa.ie) – with whom I know you have constructively engaged on 'The Midas Initiative' – at our NSMC Secretariat in Armagh, to consider how all-island and cross-border dimensions might best enhance prospects for a successful Conference.

Finally, I would be grateful if you could keep my office informed as your proposal proceeds and plans for the Conference develop.

I am glad to learn that you are keeping well, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dermot Ahern T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs