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UNESCO Chair in Global e-Learning with applications to multiple domains
Chairholder: Professor Tapio Varis
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNESCO CHAIR IN GLOBAL E-LEARNING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE, FINLAND 2006

The Agreement between UNESCO and the University of Tampere was signed by the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura on the 23rd November 2001 and by the Rector of the University of Tampere, Mr. Jorma Sipila, on the 9th January 2002. According to the Agreement Article 1:

> *"The University shall, in cooperation with UNESCO, establish a UNESCO Chair in global e-learning with applications to multiple domains (hereinafter referred to as "the Chair") at its Faculty of Education."*

Article 2 of the Agreement defines the purpose of the Chair as follows:

> *"The purpose of the Chair shall be to promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation in the field of global e-learning with applications to multiple domains. It will serve as a means of facilitating collaboration between high level, internationally recognized researchers and teaching staff of the University and other institutions in Finland and Europe and other regions in the world."*

Article 3 determines the procedure of appointing the Chairholder as follows:

> *"The University, in consultation with UNESCO, shall appoint the Chairholder who will be selected by means of a procedure to be mutually agreed upon."*

Following this Agreement the University of Tampere in consultation with UNESCO appointed Dr. **Tapio Varis**, professor of media education in the Research Centre for Vocational Education and in the Hypermedia laboratory as the Chairholder for the period 2002-2006. Full text of the Agreement and the previous annual reports are available at: http://www.uta.fi/~titava. In 2006 Professor Varis was appointed as Professor of Vocational Education, with particular reference to Global Learning Environments and continuously as the Unesco Chairholder from 2006 onwards.

This Report is divided into three parts. Part I describes the regular activities of the Chairholder, Professor Tapio Varis. Part II describes progress in the creation of the Global University System (GUS). Part III gives information of the financing of the Chair.

Part I: Regular activities of the Chairholder, Professor Tapio Varis

Principal Research Associate of Unesco-Unevoc International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training

In 2006 Professor Varis was appointed as the Principal Research Associate of Unesco-Unevoc International Centre for technical and Vocational Education and Training which has its Headquarters in Bonn, Germany.

Dr Varis contibuted to UNESCO-UNEVOC International Conference "Vocational Content in Mass Higher Education", September 2005. Organized UNESCO-UNEVOC workshop on ICT and sustainable development in vocational education in the Baltic region in January 2006, and a seminar on multicultural communication in May 2006. Responsible for research and development on ICT and sustainable development and author of related documents. Speaker and participant in UNESCO-UNEVOC related conferences in Paris, Ecuador, India, Turkey, Finland, Russia, and Brazil. UNESCO-UNEVOC representative in the forthcoming African e-learning conference 2007.

The Research Centre for Vocational Education in the University of Tampere also became a National UNEVOC Centre in Finland in 2006. Professor Pekka Ruohotie and Dr. Rupert Maclean edited a Festschrift honouring the work of Professor Varis on his 60th birthday "Communication and Learning in the Multicultural World", University of Tampere 2006.

A.   Keynote Lectures and Presentations in 2006

Paper presentation and Plenary Panel in International Conference on Digital Libraries, New Delhi, India, 5-8 December 2006

Presentation in the Second International Colloquium on Research & Higher Education Education Policy, UNESCO, Paris, 29 November – 1 December 2006

Global University System, TOBB Economics and Technology University, Ankara, Turkey, 19-20 October 2006

Networking for the Future – Children, Literature and Media Skills, Electronic Digital Media Project International Seminar, Helsinki, Finland, 28 September 2006
COMMUNICATION:
a new frontier for social inclusion

Communication: a new frontier for social inclusion, EU eLearning Conference, Helsinki, Finland 4 July 2006

Third Public Relations Conference, Brasilia, Brazil 26 June (paper presented in absence)

E-Learning Goes Social – Policy Becomes e-Inclusive, keynote at the 28th International Conference "Information Technology Interfaces", University Computing Centre, University of Zagreb, Croatia, 19-22 June 2006 (Vice-Chair of ITI 2006 Conference)

Building e-Inclusive Europe, EU Riga 12-13 June 2006

Panel and Workshop presentations in the Conference of the Century, Auditoria Democratica Andina, Ecuador 1-3 June 2006

Media Literacies in the Digital Age," 3rd Congres on Specialized Journalism, Guadalajara, Madrid 5 May 2006

Communication and confidence-building, International conference on multicultural communication, Hämeenlinna 22-23 May 2006

Die Globale Universität und die Konkurrenz zwischen EU und USA im digitalen Bildungsbereich, Multimediakontor Hamburg, 25 April 2006

Keynote and Workshop presentations at Media and Gender Beijing International Forum, Beijing 12-14 January 2006

B.   Publications

Associate Editor of International Journal of Mobile Learning and Organisation (IJMLO)

Building Global Inclusive Knowledge Societies, International Conference on Digital Libraries, New Delhi, India, 5-8 December 2006

Global University in the Knowledge Societies, Presentation in the Second International Colloquium on Research & Higher Education Policy, UNESCO, Paris, 29 November – 1 December 2006

E-Learning Goes Social – Policy Becomes e-Inclusive, 28th International Conference "Information Technology Interfaces", University Computing Centre, University of Zagreb, Croatia, 19-22 June 2006

C.   Lecturing, Courses and Thesis Instruction

Course on "New Media, Communication and Peace in the Global Knowledge Society," Taganrog University of Radioengineering, Russia, 6 March – 31 May 2006

Doctoral seminar and lecture course in master programme, University of Tampere, Finland

New Media, Communication and Peace in the Global Knowledge Society, 5 study points (3 Finnish credits). University of Helsinki, Finland

Master seminar in communication studies, University of Helsinki, Finland

D.   <u>Expert evaluations</u>

Custos (Chair) of a Doctoral Dissertation, University of Tampere 24 February 2006

Scientific examiner (opponent) of a Doctoral Dissertation, Helsinki University of Technology, 18 December 2006

University of Lapland, expert evaluation for the position of a professorship in media research

Expert evaluation to the Swiss National Science Foundation, December 2006

Member of the European Commission Media Literacy Expert Group 2006

Expert in consultation of the European Union ICT programme, June 2006

E.   <u>Other Activities</u>

Research planning meeting with Dr. Margarita Pavlova, St. Petersburg, Russia, and Bonn, Germany 21-26 September 2006

Festschrift Book international seminar, Helsinki, 1 September 2006

Keynote speeches in national conferences in Finland

Videoconference speech to Fukuoka Cultural Event, Japan, 4 November 2006

Active participation in media related activities and regular contributions to national media

Part II: Creation of the Global University System (GUS)

As was described in the Annual Report of 2003 of the Chair, the main activity of the Chair has been to create the Global University System (GUS) and build the network for this project. The global activities and networks of the Chair are presented by **Dr. Takeshi Utsumi** (full materials are available at the following address):

http://www.friends-partners.org/GLOSAS/Global_University/Global%20University%20System/Reference_web_sites.html

A.   The Global University System (GUS) activities in 2006 include the following:

1. Audio-conferences

a. March 12, 2006

We conducted a successful audioconference with parties in Aba and Lagos in Nigeria and in New Jersey and New York on our Project;

> Oji, D. E., T. Utsumi and C. Uwaje,   "International Centers of Excellence for e-Health in Africa with Global University System in Nigeria," Paper published in the eHealth International Journal, International eHealth Association (IeHA), University of Michigan Health System, September 25, 2005
> http://tinyurl.com/y8d4zs

b. March 27, 2006

We conducted a successful audioconference with parties at the UNDP in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in Seattle, WA and in New York on our Project;

> Establishment of
> International Centres of Excellence for e-Health (ICEEH)
> in Sierra Leone and Mano River Union countries
>   See Section V-A-4 of <http://tinyurl.com/b475v>

c. November 24, 2006

We conducted a successful audioconference with parties at the UNDP in New York, parties in Seattle, WA, Atlanta, GA and in New York on our Project to create GUS/Sierra Leone mentioned above.

2. Speeches and Papers

Utsumi, T.

"Global E-Learning for Global Peace with Global University System," *Experiments in Education,* Vol. XXXIV, No. 1, ISSN 0970-7490, January, 2006
  http://www.experimentsineducation.150m.com

Utsumi, T.
  "Global University System for Engineering Education in the Age of Globalization"; European Journal of Engineering Education, Vol. 31, No.3, June 2006, Pages 339-348
  http://tinyurl.com/wfkr6

Utsumi, T.
  "Globally Collaborative Innovation Network with Global University System," Paper for *Learning Technology*, IEEE Computer Society, Vol. 8, Issue 3, July, 2006
  http://tinyurl.com/fuwg6

  Utsumi, T. (2005); "Global E-Learning for Global Peace with Global University System," Paper for the forthcoming publication "*Communication and Learning in the Multicultural World*," University of Tampere, Finland, (Edited by Pekka Ruohotie), to celebrate the 60th birthday of the GUS Acting President Tapio Varis in June 2006
  http://tinyurl.com/nevvj

3. **Attendances at:**

a. January 27, 2006
    Columbia University
    "New Media in Education 2006: A Progress Report"

b. February 16, 2006
    Columbia University
    "Informedia & CareMedia: Automatic Digital Video Understanding."

c. April 13, 2006
    United Nations University seminar in New York,
    "Challenging Intellectual Property: Access to Knowledge Issues in Open Source and Medicine"

d. April 22, 2006
    Annual Meeting of the Japanese Medical Society of America in New York.

e. April 24, 2006
    Meeting with Dr. Dorothy Gordon, Director-General of the Advanced Information Technology Institute (AITI) (Ghana India Kofi Annan Center of Excellence in ICT) in Ghana, at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey

f. November 29 to 30, 2006
    SATCON 2006, November 29-30 at the Javits Convention Center in New York.

g. December 3, 2006
   Future Direction of the Greater New York Chapter of the Fulbright Association

h. December 7, 2006
   Polytechnic University in New York
   Dr. Bob Metcalfe, Co-inventor of Ethernet
   "*Ethernet is the Answer; What is the Question*?"

i. December 15, 2006
   United Nations University seminar in New York,
   "Trading on Human Terms"

4. Meeting held

July 6, 2006
Columbia School of Public Health
To create GUS/New York Chapter for exporting (later importing) educational, healthcare (and later cultural) services in tri-state around NYC to (later from) developing countries, and then construction of a portal for those services and delivery mechanism, etc.

Along this line, there were linkages made for future GUS activities with;

a. Center for Technology Management in Global Development at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey

b. United States/Africa Materials Institute (USAMI) at Princeton University in New Jersey

B. <u>The GUS activities in developing countries include the following:</u>

1. Creation of GUS/Siberia <http://tinyurl.com/yxzsx9>

During the fact-finding and assessment trip to Novosibirsk and Altai region in Siberia in September with the fund from the US Agency for International Development through the Eurasia Foundation, we were overwhelmed with astonishing interest in our project at all the levels of governments, municipalities, higher educational and healthcare institutions — our meeting was even televised throughout entire Russia by a national TV program from Moscow!!

2. Creation of GUS/Turkey <http://tinyurl.com/wy5xz>

In October, we had very fruitful and productive discusións with TOBB Economics and Technology University in Ankara to initiate the following two projects;

a. <u>Global E-Learning:</u>   Students of the TOBB university would receive courses from the Helsinki University of Technology — this is to take the advantage of same time zone for better student care.

b. <u>Globally Collaborative Research and Development:</u>   Under the tutelage of Prof. Tapio Varis, there would be a joint collaborative research on global e-learning between the TOBB University and the University of Tampere in Finland.

Part III: Financial Report

Available upon request