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ICT-20 @ COVID-19 Virtual Conference organized by MIPRO

What have we learned and done so far: social, medical and educational aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic

Almost as a lightning from blue sky we were struck by the pandemic provoked by the SARS CoV-2 virus and the CoViD-19 disease caused by it. And suddenly swiped by this new, unknown and frightening disease, in the same way we do it already for thousands of years in such situations, we used the only efficient defense method: the world stopped. Airplanes ceased to fly, ships to sail, automobiles to drive. Global and local distribution and physical communication channels are suddenly severed. Countries closed themselves in their cocoons. People started hiding in their homes.

The world stopped, but life has to be alive. The only “thing” which in modern times we have, and never before in pandemic times we had, is Information-Communication Technology (ICT). That's a silver lining. The whole of modern day global civilisation is communicationally actually a family living room. But in this living room there is a lot of rumble. To discern truth from falsehood, to discern real worth from imaginary values, to discern the essential from the not-so-essential from the completely irrelevant, is a difficult task suddenly brought in front of all of us.

The situation in the world we suddenly came to be in slipped away the former notion of “normality”. The future suddenly became completely unpredictable. But the main human characteristic is intelligence, and intelligence is the ability to manage in new and unknown situations. And so the whole world sided towards the virtual, wherever and as far as possible. The exchange of goods and services at once has to be “touch-free”, too. But, frankly, only challenges are that what “sharpens” intelligence. Therefore, we have to look at this challenge exclusively as a possibility of better organisation of future life, in the global framework. To achieve this, wide and deep interdisciplinarity is essential.

Three are main aspects of everyday life which have shown to be the most important: the *social*, including cultural and economic, then the unpredictably heavily strained *medical*, and, for the future of our existence essential, *educational*. And in each of these three aspects just the existence of the world communication network, the world knowledge banks and the possibility of quick development of efficient dedicated local communication structures has shown to be quite strain-relaxing.

In the future the world will have to organise itself differently, as, regarding the virulence of the virus itself, and looking at the unbelievable heterogeneity of reactions of different world countries, quite a lot of time will pass even to get to some kind of basic stability of the “new reality”.

So also the MIPRO Society, right in days when in former times it used to organise a big “physical” convention in Opatija, Croatia, this time, by using this Information-Communication Technology, organises a “virtual” conference about the use of this Information-Communication Technology in the newly emerged reality.

What have we learned and done so far? And how shall we continue, what can we do to make the world of future, which supports human life in symbiosis with the whole of nature? Those are some of the questions on which, as much as possible in given circumstances, top Croatian and international scientists, from different areas of expertise, will try to answer. The questions of society, health and education, and the large obol the development of Information-Communication Technology already gave in the present, and even more it can give in the future.

The ICT-20 @ COVID-19 conference will encompass 23 lectures and five 20-minute virtual “mini round tables”, and will be held in the information-communication space on Wednesday and Thursday 27th and 28th of May 2020.

Link for joining the conference is

<https://zoom.us/j/98862349133?pwd=a2JEUzhNeStYbFRXaWN5MnVxdHlsQT09.>