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Research Centre for Vocational Education & Hypermedia laboratory
UNESCO Chair in Global e-Learning with applications to multiple
domains

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNESCO CHAIR IN GLOBAL E-
LEARNING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE, FINLAND
2003**

Establishing the Chair

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. The substantial activities of the Chair started in 2003 and this first annual report of the Chair covers the activities of this year 2003. The Chair was created to promote co-operation with other centres of excellence, especially with the Open University in the U.K. and the Open University in Catalunya (UOC) in Spain. During the year 2003 the Chairholder had four meetings with the representatives of the UOC in Barcelona to plan and implement different activities related to global e-Learning. The University of Tampere follows the spirit of Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, who emphasized on the 13th November 2002, in the World Forum of UNESCO Chairs the need is to make educational materials freely available on the Web and to have the real possibilities to do so.

The activities of the UNESCO Chair in Global e-Learning with applications to multiple domains at the University of Tampere began immediately after the signature of the Agreement between UNESCO and The University of Tampere at the end of 2001. Professor Varis contributed, among other things, to the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and World Conference of UNESCO Chairs in Paris before starting fully his work in the UNESCO Chair in 2003.

In 1999, Professor Varis was responsible for organizing the international conference on ³Emerging Global Electronic Distance Learning² at the University of Tampere (www.uta.fi/~titava/EGEDL) with the GLOBAL Systems Analysis and Simulation Association in the U.S.A. (GLOSAS/USA) which was welcomed very positively by high level international representatives of the academia, government and businesses.

That conference also institutionalized the years-long international efforts experimenting with Global Lecture Halls (GLH) to create a Global University System (GUS). The leading figures of GUS have been Dr. Takeshi Utsumi, founder and Vice-President for Technology and Coordination, Professor Tapio Varis, Acting President, and Mr. Marco Antonio Diaz, Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

The main activity of the Chair has been to create the Global University System (GUS) and build the network for this project. These activities have been described extensively in the first publication of the Chair “ **Global Peace Through The Global University System**” by Tapio Varis - Takeshi Utsumi - William Klemm (Eds.) University of Tampere, Finland 2003, Saarijärven Offset Oy Cover painting: Juhani Palmu: "Communications II" Cover design: Hanna Varis -ISBN 951-44-5695-5 (enclosed with this Annual Report).

The book is the first major contribution of the Tampere Chair to the international UNESCO network and academic community of these goals and specific applications. The University of Tampere is very proud to note the list of distinguished world leaders expressing their greetings in the book and the theoretical articles and project descriptions by leading experts from various parts of the world.

This book is produced by the UNESCO Chair in Global eLearning at the University of Tampere, Finland. The Editor-in-Chief is Finnish Ph. D., Professor Tapio Varis, UNESCO Chair holder, and co-editors are Dr. Takeshi Utsumi and professor William Klemm. The book includes 518 pages and CD-ROM on the topic of Global University System GUS and eLearning/eHealthcare projects.

Greetings by high-level dignitaries and representatives of international organizations in Part I of the book endorse the concept of GUS. Authors of these greetings give their visions of how the university can advance the cause of world prosperity, justice, and peace. They are:

Former President of Finland and Laureate of Fulbright Prize, Martti Ahtisaari

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Erkki Tuomioja

European Commissioner for Education and Culture, Belgium, Ms. Viviane Reding

Former Director-General of UNESCO, Spain, Federico Mayor

Former Director-General of ITU, Finland, Pekka Tarjanne

Director-General of ITU, Switzerland, Yoshio Utsumi

Director-General of ILO, Switzerland, Juan Somavia
 Vice Chancellor of The Open University, UK, Ms. Brenda M. Gourley
 Former Director of Higher Education of UNESCO, France, Marco Antonio
 R. Dias.

The purpose of this book is to make internationally known the philosophy, past and present actions, as well as future plans of the GUS, which have resulted from years of development and a seminal working conference at the University of Tampere in 1999. The editors' paper "Creating Global University System" opens Part II, which emphasizes the important role of higher educational Institutions not only as the knowledge centers of their community but also as the gateway to the world for collaboration of creating new knowledge in global knowledge society of the 21st century. The key to global peace, which is the ultimate aim of GUS education, can be attained by promoting mutual understanding and trust among the people of the world. This is followed by papers describing how the challenges of globalization in the 21st century are to be dealt with along intercultural studies and peace education with the use of advanced information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Papers in Part III describe:

- * Implementation plan for realizing GUS with a community development approach and paradigm shift from industrial age to knowledge society of the 21st century,
- * Past and current experiences of eLearning practices through narrow band Internet and other ways,
- * Proposed schemes on how to extend eLearning through narrow-band Internet to developing countries, and
- * Vision of how to enhance eLearning courses with broadband Internet and proposed schemes - how to realize them.

Papers in Part IV describe how GUS can help promote collaboration for attaining global peace, particularly with the use of virtual reality and virtual laboratories through the advanced GRID computing network technology for globally collaborative, experiential/constructive creation of new knowledge by young people around the world.

Economic interdependence among nations and cultures is spawning a global economy. Such globalisation inevitably magnifies the negative consequences of population growth, environmental degradation, and unequal distribution of resources and wealth among nations.

Globalization also promotes clashes of divergent cultures and belief systems, political and religious. As a result, wars and rumours of wars abound. If global peace is ever to be achieved, global-scale education with the use of the modern digital telecommunications will be needed to create mutual understanding among nations, cultures, ethnic groups, and religions. The Internet is the future of telecommunications and can be a medium for building peace.

The Global University System (GUS) is a worldwide initiative to create satellite/wireless telecommunications infrastructure and educational programs for access to educational resources across national and cultural boundaries for global peace. The GUS helps higher educational institutions in remote/rural areas of developing countries to deploy broadband Internet in order for them to close the digital divide and act as the knowledge center of their region for the eradication of poverty and isolation. Education and job skills are the keys in determining a nation's wealth and influence. The GUS education thus will promote world prosperity, justice, and peace, based on moral principles rather than political or ideological doctrines. The aim is to achieve "education for all", anywhere, anytime.

The Outline of this book is retrievable at;

http://www.friends-partners.org/GLOSAS/Global_University/Global%20University%20System/UNESCO_Chair_Book/Bk_outline-D13.html

Keynote lectures

During 2003 Professor Varis, the Chairholder, has held the following major lectures (in chronological order):

Educa Fair, Helsinki 24 January, Keynote on schools and e-Learning

European Commission Workshop "Media Literacy: Citizenship and Dialogue", Brussels 28 January

European Institute for the Media, Conference in Riga 23rd January, Latvia, Keynote on "Cultural identity in a new global environment"

International Institute of Semiotics, Imatra 7th February, Keynote: "Small individual in the world community"

UNESCO Conference on Intercultural Education: Teaching and Learning for Intercultural Understanding, Human Rights and a Culture of Peace, Jyväskylä 15-18 June, Plenary Discussant, and Speaker

UNESCO Congress on “The European Arts in Education – Cooperation over Borders, Helsinki 9 August, Keynote on “Arts, education and UNESCO”

International seminar on Digital Libraries, Helsinki, 8 September, Keynote on the evaluation of electronic libraries

International seminar on Virtual Libraries, Barcelona 20 November, Keynote on the role of digital libraries

Campus Innovation: Meet the Best in e-Learning, Hamburg 29-30 September, plenary panel presentation on global e-Learning

ASEM Seminar on e-Learning, Seoul 27-30 October, Korea, Keynote on e-Learning in Europe and Finland

International Seminar “Universities XXI”, Brasilia 25-27 November, Brazil, Keynote on “The Role of State and the Reinstitutionalizing of the University”

Teaching, courses and lectures

During the year 2003 Professor Varis held the following teaching and graduation duties:

Doctoral monthly research seminar on media education January – December 2003, University of Tampere

Lectures on “Social Change and the Working Life”, University of Tampere (20 h)

A course “Social work in a multicultural media society and high-tech culture” Tallinna Pedagoogikaülikool (Tallinn University of Pedagogy, Estonia), 9 –12 January

Monthly Seminar on Dialogue, Häme Polytechnic, Finland, January – December 2003

Lecture in the International School of Social Sciences, University of Tampere, on Global Knowledge Society, 17 December

Lecture at the Helsinki University of Technology on learning, 10 March

Lectures on critical media literacy, City of Oulu and Kempele 12 September

Course “New Media, communication and peace in the Global Knowledge Society”, UNESCO Chair in Philosophy and Peace, University “Jaume I”, Castellon, 1-19 December, Spain

Doctoral examinations:

Chair for the licenciate Thesis of Seija Okkonen, University of Tampere 4 October

Custos for the Doctoral Dissertation of Tia Isokorpi, University of Tampere 19 June

Examinations of several masters’ thesis

Publications in 2003:

Global Peace Through The Global University System 2003 Ed. by T. Varis, T. Utsumi, and W. R. Klemm University of Tampere, Hämeenlinna, Finland

Yliopistovisiot arjen hallinnossa. Tapio Varis - Päikki Priha - Lasse Lyytikäinen - Mauri Ylä-Kotola (toim.). Tampereen yliopisto, ammattikasvatuksen tutkimus- ja koulutuskeskus, Hämeenlinna 2003.

Tapio Varis - Seppo Saari: Knowledge Society in Progress - Evaluation of the Finnish Electronic Library - FinELib. Publications of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council, No 4, 2003, Edita, Helsinki

Globaali e-oppiminen osaamishaasteena. Ammattikasvatuksen aikakauskirja No 1, 2003.

Elämisyhteiskunnan totuus on pinnallinen, lyhytjänteinen ja käytännöllinen. Tietopalvelu No 2, 2003

New Literacies and e-Learning Competences,

<http://www.elearningeuropa.info/doc.php?lng=1&id=595&doclng=1>

Elektroninen kirjasto ja tiedonhakutaidot. Tiedepolitiikka No 1, 2003.

Media kiireettömän luovuuden tukena. Alma Media vuosikertomus 2002, s.20-21. Helsinki 2003.

The Evaluation of the Finnish Electronic Library FinELib. Helsinki University Library Bulletin 2003.

Research work

During 2003 Professor Varis was responsible of or participated in the following research seminars and projects:

MobiLearn, Research workshop in Tampere 23-24 June (ongoing research project)

Contributions to the creation of the European e-learning portal:
www.elearningeuropa.info

e-Learning benchmarking seminar, Open University, Milton Keynes U.K.
16-18 July

European Media Literacy Centre (project proposal for the European Union, approved in December 2003)

Global University System (see the book enclosed)

Electronic library, Chair of the International Evaluation Team of the Finnish National Electronic Library FinELib, Report published on the 24th March

Mass media publicity

The Chairholder, Professor Varis contributed actively to the public debate in Finland and abroad through the mass media. His activities included:

The Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE, Radio 1, monthly discussion programme (1 h, broadcast twice every month)

Educational television programmes based on the keynote lectures

Regular newspaper and magazine articles

Interview in the Net television of the Finnish Church, Maunula Region in Helsinki 23 March

Member of the Steering Group of Carelian Digital Media Factory (CADIMEF), Joensuu, Finland

Member of the Steering Group of Diakonia School of Media and Journalism, Turku, Finland

Other

Negotiations on cooperation of UNESCO Chairs with the Catalunyan Open University in Barcelona, 11 March

The Activities of the Chair have also been promoted by the Visiting Professor Paul Lefrere (UK) and co-editors of the book “Global Peace Through the Global University System” Takeshi Utsumi and Bill Klemm in their various presentations and speeches

FINANCIAL REPORT

According the Article 8 of the Agreement

“The University shall provide a financial report showing the financial support obtained for the Chair from different sources.”

This information is given separately.

Tampere 19th December 2003,

Tapio Varis
UNESCO Chair in Global e-Learning
Professor of Media Education
www.uta.fi/itava

-encl. Book “Global Peace Through the Global University System”