

The Best of the Delivery Co.

April 1998 - March 2000

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Foreword

This publication is a collection of messages from the Delivery Co., i.e. the IFIP Secretariat, to IFIP member societies, their representatives and IFIP officers. The selection contains only a very small part of the traffic that has gone from April 1998 to March 2000. Most messages included here are accompanied by a joke. The joke part is a deal the Delivery Co. struck on 7 April 1998 which boils down to "Work and Fun Go Together." Most messages are abridged while the jokes remain as they were sent.

As the project of this publication developed we added the information related to the 2 lotteries which were organized by the IFIP Secretariat to promote IFIP publications and the 16th IFIP World Computer Congress in Beijing, China. Finally, we added 2 papers, co-authored by the IFIP President and the IFIP Executive Director, which are not known within IFIP and we thought this by itself might be valuable.

We have chosen to include only material until March 2000 as we felt a certain distance of time is required for a second critical view of a way of communicating which, we think, started with "The Burglar". Our intention is, if this will be appreciated by our readers, to prepare in future new editions covering the next periods.

And now we give way to the many characters -- the Parrot, the Bear, the Soldier and many more -
- who have amused IFIP during 2 whole years.

Enjoy,

Plamen Nedkov

1. Letters with Appetizers

Date: **Tue, 07 Apr 1998** 15:10:05 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **For your Easter basket**

This is no marketing wisecrack at the expense of the Beaujolais (remember, it came after the GA 97 Minutes) but a simple announcement saying that the Manchester Council 98 Minutes are now available. Go get them while they are still warm at <http://www.ifip.or.at/minutes.htm>

THE GOOD NEWS: The Delivery Co. is an animal friendly entity and avoids spurring camels for fast deliveries. With e-mail and the Web you are comfortably positioned in the midst of the IFIP virtual whirlpool.

THE BAD NEWS: We are sorry we don't provide yarn spinners. You are actually encouraged to read the Minutes and to follow-up on actions relating to you and the entity you represent. Other action-oriented messages are in the pipeline!

As a token of our appreciation for your support please find a reward at the end.

Season's Greetings and Servus from Laxenburg,

The Delivery Co. ☺

The Burglar

A burglar breaks into a house at midnight. Once inside, he hears a voice in the dark that says, "JESUS IS WATCHING YOU!"

The burglar stops for a moment, then continues to move throughout the house. Once again he hears this voice: "Jesus is watching you!"

The burglar, nervous, turns on a light and sees that the voice is actually coming from a birdcage, and there's a little parrot in it.

He approaches the parrot and says: "Oh, you really scared me for a moment, what is your name, birdie?"

"My name is Peter" answers the parrot.

The burglar says, "Peter is a weird name for a parrot."

The parrot says: "Think so? I think "Jesus" for a Doberman is even weirder!"

Date: **Fri, 08 May 1998** 15:29:50 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **June issue**

Greetings Everyone!

The JUNE issue of the IFIP Newsletter is out and waiting for you at
<http://www.ifip.or.at/newsletters/news1.html>.

Come and visit and you will find an improved design. Hot links from the navigation bar take you to the IFIP Calendar of conferences, future meetings, Council and TC information, which makes it a lot more easier and comfortable to get reference updates while you are surfing through the various Newsletter articles. Join us with a link from your site and make your members happy.

Have a nice weekend,

The Delivery Co. ☺ -- *We try even harder than AVIS!*

P.S. - Many of you got in touch with us to tell us they appreciated the marketing efforts and they liked our Joke reward in April. They even promised that if we continue to add humor they would be prepared to try harder in supporting IFIP. NOT BAD! Bearing in mind these nice words for which we are most thankful we are pleased to introduce to you

The Parrot

Jimmy received a parrot for Christmas. The parrot was fully-grown, with a very bad attitude and a worse vocabulary. Jimmy tried to change the bird's attitude by constantly saying polite words, playing soft music...anything he could think of. Nothing worked. He yelled at the bird, and the bird got worse. He shook the bird, and the bird got madder and ruder.

Finally, in a moment of desperation, Jimmy put the parrot in the freezer. For a few moments he heard the bird swearing, squawking, kicking and screaming and then, suddenly, there was absolute quiet.

Jimmy was frightened that he might have actually hurt the bird, and quickly opened the freezer door. The parrot calmly stepped out onto Jimmy's extended arm and said, "I'm sorry that I offended you with my language and my actions, and I ask your forgiveness. I will endeavor to correct my behavior".

Jimmy was astounded at the changes in the bird's attitude and was about to ask what had changed him, when the parrot continued, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

Date: **Tue, 09 Jun 1998** 10:46:04 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **web pages**

Are you beginning to wonder why the Delivery Co. has maintained a low profile lately?

The good reason is that we were busy at the IFIP Secretariat with a new design of the IFIP URL. It is presentable now and we proudly invite you to <http://www.ifip.or.at>.

"Why change? The old design was good enough," some may say. Well, we want the IFIP WWW services to be more than good. Our Vision is for a CLASSIC. This implies a compact, integrated design with unified information sources and logical relationships, simple and distinctive.

We have introduced 3 to 4 layers of information hierarchy with relationship links to our Members, Partners, TCs and WGs. Currently EVERYONE in IFIP is represented and integrated. Further work and improvements are envisaged.

The IFIP Site is an attractive and useful Gateway to discover Who's Who and What's Done in the World of IP. So, try us again <http://www.ifip.or.at> and have your satisfaction guaranteed!

The Delivery Co. ☺

Friends

Two small boys, not yet old enough to be in school, were overheard talking one day.

"My name is Billy. What's yours?" asked the first boy.

"Tommy," replied the second.

"Do you pray before meals?" asked Tommy.

"No, my Mom's a good cook", said Billy.

Date: **Thu, 06 Aug 1998** 15:19:47 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **Deja vu?**

Mesdames, Messieurs,

The September issue of "Le Newsletter" is served for your pleasure at <http://www.ifip.or.at/newsletters/news1.html>. It is seasoned with tradition, flavored with the news of the day and garnished with suspense in accord with the best traditions of the French cuisine. What more could one hope for? [For the Chinese cuisine fans we can also offer a visit to <http://www.cie-china.org/wcc2000.htm>. for a briefing on what is cooking for IFIP Congress 2000.]

Don't miss this opportunity to unveil now the Issue of September.

Greetings from Laxenburg,

The Delivery Co.

PS. All this cooking made us hungry and we are going out to reward our efforts with a ... pizza. However, we have not forgotten! Le Joke

Flavors

A guy in Paris nearly got away with stealing several paintings from the Louvre. However, after planning the crime, he was captured only two blocks away when his van ran out of gas. When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied:

"I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh."

Date: **Mon, 28 Sep 1998** 08:09:53 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **Highlights**

September was successful in several ways. We had an excellent Congress (further about this in a separate message) and a successful General Assembly. After GA 98 a major update of our directory and online information was needed and we are proud to say that most of this work is done and the information is posted on our Web site.

What remains is the GA 98 Minutes. If hurricane George does not jump on us in Laxenburg we are hopeful to have them online by mid-October. We already have the last Minute recorded at <http://www.ifip.or.at/minutes/last.htm>

Here are some other HIGHLIGHTS:

[P.N.- This part of the message as the information is contained in the IFIP GA 1998 Minutes.]

Detail and excitement will follow with the GA 98 Minutes so don't miss that Party!

Greetings,

The Delivery Co. ☺

The Bear

In the middle of a forest, there was a hunter who was suddenly confronted by a huge, mean bear. In his fear, all attempts to shoot the bear were unsuccessful.

Finally, he turned and ran as fast as he could.

The hunter ran and ran and ran, until he ended up at the edge of a very steep cliff. His hopes were dim. Seeing no way out of his predicament, and with the bear closing in rather quickly, the hunter got down on his knees, opened his arms, and exclaimed, "Dear God! Please give this bear some religion!"

The sky darkened and there was lightning in the air. Just a few feet short of the hunter, the bear came to an abrupt stop, and glanced around, somewhat confused. Suddenly, the bear looked up into the sky and said, "Thank you, God, for the food I'm about to receive...."

Date: **Fri, 02 Oct 1998** 11:48:38 +0100

From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>

Subject: **Your Friday Special**

Two important issues would be on our 1999 Agenda and appear to be of great interest to IFIP's Members and Partners. These are the Millennium Problem and Electronic Publishing. Your Delivery Co. carried out some research on relevant Internet sources and we are pleased to report back the following sites of interest:

1. <http://www.itu.ch/y2k/> -- The International Telecommunication Union ITU Year 2000 Web site contains up-to-date Year 2000-compliance information, inter-carrier test results, Web links to other organizations involved in Year 2000 activities, Year 2000 Tool Kit, Task Force membership and so on.
2. <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/icsu/> -- Proceedings of ICSU Workshop on Economics, real costs and benefits of electronic publishing in science-a technical study. Keble College, University of Oxford UK, 31 March to 2 April 1998. These proceedings are freely available. For more information you could have a quick look at the Executive Summary Report.

ALSO, you can NOW ORDER the IFIP Congress 98 proceedings from <http://www.ocg.or.at/ifip98.html> and tune to the IFIP Music "Allegretto IFIPiense" at <http://sunsite.univie.ac.at/musicfun/IFIPMusic/>

Have a nice weekend,

The Friendly Co. ☺

P.S. and since we are talking business, here is

TODAY'S STOCK MARKET REPORT

- * Paper was stationary.
- * Fluorescent tubing was dimmed in light trading.
- * Knives were up sharply.
- * Cows steered into a bull market.

- * Pencils lost a few points.
- * Hiking equipment was trailing.
- * Elevators rose, while escalators continued their slow decline.
- * Weights were up in heavy trading.
- * Light switches were off.
- * Mining equipment hit rock bottom.
- * Diapers remain unchanged.
- * The market for raisins dried up.
- * Coca Cola fizzled.
- * Caterpillar stock inched up a bit.
- * Sun peaked at midday.
- * Balloon prices were inflated.
- * Scott Tissue touched a new bottom.

Date: **Thu, 22 Oct 1998** 10:12:25 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **Here it comes**

Dear IFIP,

Good things in Life are simple. Simply click on <http://www.ifip.or.at/minutes/budapest98.htm> and the Budapest GA 98 Minutes will pop in. We deliver fine products in good time. Even the world famous Brazilian football team is impressed and recently chose to be trained by ... Mr. Laxenburgo! ;-)

Greetings from Laxenburg,

The Delivery Co. ☺

P.S. Did you know that the **Y2K problem** is solved? Here's how it happened...

Boris Yeltsin, Bill Clinton and Bill Gates were invited to have dinner with God. During dinner He told them:

"I invited you here because I need three important people to send my message out to all people - Tomorrow I will destroy the earth"

After dinner, Yeltsin immediately called together his cabinet and told them: "I have two very bad news items for you:

1. God really exists, and
2. Tomorrow He will destroy the earth."

Clinton called an Emergency meeting of the Senate and Congress and told them: "I have Good news and Bad News:

1. The good news is: God really does exist.
2. The bad news is: tomorrow He's destroying the earth."

Bill Gates went back to Microsoft and happily announced: "I have two fantastic announcements:

1. I am one of three most important people on earth.
2. The Year 2000 problem is solved."

Date: **Thu, 26 Nov 1998** 12:03:07 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **There is something about**

There is something about our Newsletter. It is so resourceful - as if it flows from the Horn of Plenty. The December issue is on at <http://www.ifip.or.at/newsletters/news1.html>

The Delivery Co. ☺

P.S. Are there any accountants around? If not, here comes your November award

Good Move

Two accountants were standing in the park. One had a new bike.

The other said, "Nice bike. How much?"

The first said, "It was free."

The other asked, "Wow, how did you get it for free?"

The one with the bike said, "Yesterday a beautiful girl rode up on this bike, took off all her clothes and told me I could have anything I wanted."

The other accountant said, "Good move! Her clothes wouldn't have fit you anyway!"

Date: **Wed, 23 Dec 1998** 14:17:00 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **so good**

Dear All,

During this time of year, when the countdown to 1 January is on and we prepare for the festive period we all tend to look back to the dwindling year and then stare ahead across the threshold of 31 December hoping for a trade wind of happiness.

If we rewind the 98 IFIP reel most of us will be content with the way things went. Our members and TCs were supportive, IFIP's exposure and profile were high, we had a good Congress and other successful events are propelling us in the future.

At the close of 98 new recruits are joining us. We are pleased to announce:

Mr. Klaus Brunnstein, new GA representative of Germany
Mr. S. Park, new GA representative of Korea
Mr. Jacques Berleur, new TC 9 Chair

Both ACM and IEEE CS responded positively to IFIP's invitation to join as Full members from 1.1.99. Bob Aiken will continue as the ACM representative while Bruce Shriver [you will remember Bruce as WCC 98 Tutorial Chair] will be the IEEE CS GA representative.

The Congress 2000 IPC and OC are working hard to make our next flagship event in Beijing a grand success while Montreal is confirmed as the lieu of our Congress 2002 and our GA representative from Canada, George Boynton is named Chairman of the Congress 2002 Organizing Committee.

1999 will offer many challenges as we head towards the turn of the millenium but we are confident that with our membership, friends, expertise and potential, which is deeply rooted in our member societies and TCs, we will make the best of it.

We wrote to Santa and he promised to visit all IFIPers as all were so good during 1998. We are told that if you go to <http://www.ifip.or.at/> you will see Santa and Rudolph on their way.

Our best to you and your dear ones,

The Delivery Co. Team ☺

Want Some Candy

An 8-year old boy is walking down the road one day when a car pulls over next to him.

"If you get in the car," the driver says: "I'll give you \$10 and a piece of candy."

The boy refuses and keeps on walking.

A few moments later, not to take no for an answer, the man driving the car pulls over again.

"How about \$20 and two pieces of candy?"

The boy tells the man to leave him alone and keeps on walking.

Still further down the road the man pulls over to the side road. "Ok," he says. "This is my final offer. I'll give you \$50 and all the candy you can eat."

The little boy stops, goes to the car and leans in.

"Look," he shouts to the driver. "You bought the damned Volvo, Dad. You'll have to live with it!"

Date: **Wed, 27 Jan 1999** 16:55:11 +0100

From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>

Subject: **Your January expectations**

Some GA members and societies expressed interest in the work of the IFIP Council meetings. We have now created a web page for Council 98 in Goa at <http://www.ifip.or.at/events/congress.htm> where you will find the schedule, agenda and other information. Our intention is to add Technical Committee and other reports, when available electronically, so that everyone interested could follow the developments.

The Delivery Co. ☺

P.S. The Canadian Delivery Co. invites you to Montreal for IFIP Congress 2002 and informs that by then some additional **New warnings on beer and alcohol bottles** are likely to appear. Be prepared to see the following:

- Consumption of alcohol may make you think you are whispering when you are not
- Consumption of alcohol is a major factor in dancing like a clown
- Consumption of alcohol may cause you to tell the same boring story over and over again
- Consumption of alcohol may cause you to thay shings like thish
- Consumption of alcohol may lead you to believe that ex-lovers are really dying for you to telephone them at 4 in the morning
- Consumption of alcohol may leave you wondering what happened to your pants
- Consumption of alcohol is the leading cause of inexplicable rug burns on the forehead
- Consumption of alcohol may create the illusion that you are tougher, more handsome and smarter than some really, really big guy
- Consumption of alcohol may lead you to believe you are invisible
- Consumption of alcohol may lead you to think people are laughing WITH you

Date: **Wed, 10 Feb 1999** 14:33:55 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **here we are :-)**

The March issue of the IFIP Newsletter is now available for your enjoyment at <http://www.ifip.or.at/newsletter/news1.html>. And while you are at it, you may also care to see the new (CA)-VA BENE "Franco-Italian" pastel design of our central hub at <http://www.ifip.or.at>. If you like it you may probe further our "Events" pages and specifically http://www.ifip.or.at/cal_even.htm and follow the "Publications" pages and the link to the list of IFIP books published with C&H and Kluwer (incl. short annotations, contents and order info.) at <http://www.wkap.nl/series.htm/IFIP>.

Your members can surely benefit from a wide choice of conferences and a 30 % reduction on IFIP Publications. Why not publicize this opportunity?

The Delivery Co. ☺

Top Ten Things That Will Be Different When Microsoft Starts Building Cars

- 1) The stereo system will only be able to listen to Microsoft FM and play Microsoft cassettes.
- 2) Oil...gas...and temperature gauges will be replaced by a single "general car fault" warning light.
- 3) To turn on the air conditioner, you'll have to shut the car down for two minutes and restart it.
- 4) Occasionally, your car will stop and fail to restart, and you'll have to reinstall the engine to get it going again.
- 5) When you call the service department...they'll tell you it's not their fault and blame it on the company that made the tires.
- 6) Before the air bag deploys...it will ask "are you sure?"
- 7) To make right turns...you'll have to upgrade to Microsoft Steering Wheel 2.0
- 8) Apple will make a car that's faster...more reliable...and easier to drive...but it will only run on five percent of the roads.
- 9) If you can't afford to buy a new car, you can just borrow one from a friend and copy it.
- 10) If you're involved in a crash...you'll have no idea why.

Date: **Wed, 31 Mar 1999** 17:33:53 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **No April Fool's/Your March Reward**

"The Rabbit" is to remind you of Easter, the chocolate bunnies and the other yummys. This in turn reminds us that a year ago we sent out our first joke "The Burglar" and promised a regular future supply in return of your happy IFIP involvement.

The Delivery Co. ☺

The Rabbit

A man was driving down the highway, and he saw a rabbit hopping across the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the rabbit, but unfortunately the rabbit jumped in front of the car and was hit.

The driver, being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road, and got out to see what had become of the rabbit. Much to his dismay, it was dead. The driver felt so awful, he began to cry.

A woman driving down the same road came along, saw the man crying on the side of the road, and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong.

"I feel terrible," he explained. "I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it."

The woman told the man not to worry; she knew what to do. She went to her car trunk, and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead rabbit, and sprayed the contents of the can onto the animal.

Miraculously the rabbit came to life, jumped up, waved its paw at the two humans, and hopped down the road. Fifty yards away, the rabbit stopped, turned around, waved again, hopped down the road another fifty yards, waved and hopped another fifty yards.

The man was astonished. He couldn't figure out what substance could be in the woman's spray can!! He ran over to the woman and demanded, "What was in your can? What did you spray on that rabbit?"

The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said: "Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave."

Date: **Wed, 12 May 1999** 12:31:22 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **NL time**

Dear IFIPers,

It is Newsletter time again and the electronic version of the June issue is now available for your enjoyment at <http://www.ifip.or.at>. A pdf file [nl2q99.pdf 199 Kb Newsletter 2/June 1999] is also available at our ftp server <ftp://ftp.ifip.or.at/newsletters/index.html> which your society may download and distribute to its members if it so wishes.

Good things continue to happen!

The Delivery Co. ☺

PS. And now for some bad news: we recently learned about **An International Conspiracy** that will certainly affect our Newsletter and indeed IFIP as a whole. BE PREPARED!

The European Commission has announced an agreement that English will be the official language of the European Community (EU) rather than German (the other possibility). This proposal was strongly supported by the French representatives.

As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement, and has accepted a 5 year phase-in of new rules that would apply to the language and reclassify it as Euro-English or Deutch-Frenglish, to be more precise.

The agreed plan is as follows:

- During the first year, the soft "c" will be replaced by "s". Certainly this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. Simultaneously, the hard "c" will be replased by "k". This shall klear up konfusion and keyboards kan now have one less letter;
- During the second year there will be growing publik enthusiasm when the troublesome "ph" will be replased by "f". It will reduse "fotograf" by 20%;
- During the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of the silent "e" in the language is disgrasful, and they shall eliminat them;
- By year 4, peopl wil be reseptiv to lingwistik korektions such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v" (saving mor keyboard spas);
- During ze fifz year, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou", and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters. After zis fifz year, ve vil hav a reli sensibil riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi to understand ech ozer.

And ze drem vil finali kum tru!!!

Date: **Fri, 28 May 1999** 13:10:10 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **Your Friday Special**

ARE YOU HAPPY? If not, let us help.

Some of you wished to see the proceedings of an IFIP event available electronically on the Web. Your whispers were heard and we now have at <http://www.bi.no/dep2/infomgt/wg82-86/index.htm> the proceedings of the WG 8.2 and WG 8.6 joint Working Conference on Information Systems: Current Issues and Future Changes, Helsinki, Finland, December 10-13, 1998. FREE FREE

FREE! ! ! Spread the message and have your members and the IT community at large benefit from this IFIP service.

As an ENCORE here's a tip how to **win 10,000 US Dollars** [No Joke!] You can do that by taking part in the UNESCO web-page design contest. Check the details at <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/webprize>

Have a GRRREAT weekend and don't forget to share the prize if you win the contest!

The Delivery Co. ☺

P.S. After our last note about the Euro-English conspiracy we were reminded that

ENGLISH IS NOT EASY.

To support this statement our attention was drawn to signs posted here and there around the world:

In a Tokyo Hotel: Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you are not person to do such thing is please not to read notis.

In a Bucharest hotel lobby: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

In a hotel in Athens: Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 A.M. daily.

In a Yugoslavian hotel: The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest: It is strictly forbidden on our black forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose.

In a Rome laundry: Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

In a Czechoslovakian tourist agency: Take one of our horse driven city tours -- we guarantee no miscarriages.

On the faucet in a Finnish washroom: To stop the drip, turn cock to right.

In a Norwegian cocktail lounge: Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

At a Budapest zoo: Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

In an Acapulco hotel: The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

Date: **Mon, 20 Sep 1999** 16:00:02 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **GA 99 highlights/part 1**

This is the first note with the election and voting results and President's appointments, which configure the new IFIP management team. In a second message, which will be sent by the end of this week, we will brief you on the highlights of the GA 99 discussions and decisions. Then, as usual, we will proceed to have the GA 99 Minutes electronically by mid October [before le Beaujolais nouveau is out, which our French GA rep. promises to be of excellent vintage - n'est ce pas?] And finally you will receive the paper copy of the Minutes [hopefully not to be used as a bedside accessory].

Here comes PART 1 (New Members, Elections and Appointments):

[P.N. - This part of the message was removed. The information is contained in the GA 99 Minutes]

Servus from Laxenburg,

The Delivery Co. ☺

Golf

The Reverend Francis Norton woke up Sunday morning and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf.

So... he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and convinced him to say Mass for him that day. As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not." Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. It WAS A 420YARD HOLE IN ONE! St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked "Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

Date: **Thu, 04 Nov 1999** 10:24:25 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **IFIP Billboard**

We have now introduced a new feature at the IFIP site by which all – IFIP Member societies, technical committees, working groups, event organizers, individuals - can profit from the IFIP

visibility dividend. This new feature is the "IFIP Billboard" and it can be accessed from the IFIP home page at <http://www.ifip.or.at> or directly at <http://www.ifip.or.at/discus>

The IFIP Billboard is public domain and anyone can post announcements and messages about events, publications, projects and activities. More importantly it is free and you can benefit from the traffic to our web site by bringing further exposure to your activities. Don't miss this opportunity!

Greetings from Laxenburg,

The Delivery Co. ☺

BEAR Advice

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, recently issued this bulletin: in light of the rising frequency of human/grizzly bear conflicts, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is advising hikers, hunters, and fishermen to take extra precautions and keep alert of bears while in the field.

"We advise outdoorsmen to wear noisy little bells on their clothing so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them. We also advise outdoorsmen to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. Outdoorsmen should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear manure:

Black bear manure is smaller and contains lots of berries and squirrel fur.

Grizzly bear manure has little bells in it and smells like pepper."

Date: **Fri, 12 Nov 1999** 09:58:57 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **Information Bulletin No. 30**

We have started to prepare for the printing the next hard copy issue of the IFIP Information Bulletin. Our intention is to send the manuscript to the printers in early January 2000. Please visit <http://www.ifip.or.at> and confirm that the entry for your society/GA representative is correct.

With many thanks,

The Delivery Co. ☺

P.S. ...and since so many of you liked the grizzly bear joke here is a **Polar bear joke** to warm you up to this work :-))

A father polar bear and a baby polar bear were walking across the ice when the baby polar bear said to his dad "Dad, am I part panda bear?" "No", replied his dad. "Well then, am I part brown bear?" Again his dad said no. A short time later the baby bear asked again, "Dad, maybe I'm part koala bear?" The father getting annoyed said, "look son, I'm a polar bear, your mums a polar bear. Why on earth do you keep asking for?!" "Because," the baby bear said, "I'm bloody freezing!!".

Date: **Fri, 19 Nov 1999** 13:50:39 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **Friday's special**

Dear IFIPers,

1. OVER 430 IFIP TITLES NOW AVAILABLE AT AMAZON.COM

During GA 99 we talked about the necessity to develop better promotion and distribution channels for IFIP publications. Here is one with the widest possible impact: An easy way to shop for IFIP books is to go to <http://www.amazon.com>, click on BOOKS, get a cart, search for IFIP, and start loading as much as you can. Our tip: before buying, compare Amazon prices with these of Kluwer (C&H), Elsevier and Springer Verlag - links to our publishers are provided at <http://www.ifip.or.at/public.htm>. Members of IFIP member societies are entitled to 30% discount on IFIP books with Kluwer (discounts are also provided by Elsevier and Springer) so it may turn to be a better bargain to buy directly from our publishers.

2. SITES OF INTEREST

Please visit "Announcements" at <http://www.ifip.or.at> and then click on Sites of Interest. There is a new link to the Directory of Technical Organizations and Societies where you will find a medley of international and national societies. Some IFIP member societies are included. If yours is not there, there could be value in adding your contact data and URL at that site.

We have agreed with TechExpo -- <http://www.techexpo.com/> -- that information on IFIP events will be uploaded on their Calendar in future. IFIP Members may also add events directly on the TechCALENDAR. It is worth a visit!

FINALLY, don't forget to publicize your activities @ <http://www.ifip.or.at/discus>

Have a nice weekend,

The Delivery Co. ☺

Anything

A female student shows up during a young professor's office hours. She glances down the hall, closes his door and kneels at his feet, pleading...

"I would do anything to pass the exam".

She leans closer to him, flipping back her hair, gazing meaningfully into his eyes and sensuously whispers "I mean..., I would do....anything!!!".

He returns her gaze. "Anything???"

"Oh yes" she said, "anything!"

He stared into her eyes, and in a whisper said

"Would you.....STUDY?"

Date: **Tue, 28 Dec 1999** 16:17:51 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **No.30 is ready**

The manuscript of the IFIP Information Bulletin issue No. 30/January 2000 is on its way to the Publisher. We expect to have it printed and distributed by the end of January.

For everyone impatient to have the hard copy: an identical pdf file is bundled in the form of presents and stored next to the Christmas tree at <http://www.ifip.or.at> [also available from the Inf. Bulletin link]. You can click and download NOW!

Servus from snow-covered Laxenburg,

The Delivery Co.☺

P.S. Hope everyone is enjoying the holiday period. To keep the fun going we offer:

Stolen Kiss

A young soldier and his commanding officer board a train headed through the mountains of Switzerland. They can't find a place to sit except for two seats right across the aisle from a young woman and her grandmother.

After a while, it is obvious that the young woman and the young soldier are interested in each because they are giving each other "looks."

Soon the train passes into a tunnel and it is pitch black. There is a sound of a kiss followed by the sound of a slap.

When the train emerges from the tunnel, the four sit there without saying a word.

The grandmother is thinking to herself: "It was very brash for that young soldier to kiss my granddaughter, but I'm glad she slapped him."

The commanding officer is sitting there thinking: "I didn't know the young soldier was brave enough to kiss the girl, but I sure wish she hadn't missed him when she slapped and hit me!"

The young woman was sitting and thinking: "I'm glad the soldier kissed me, but I wish my grandmother had not slapped him!"

The young soldier sat there with a satisfied smile on his face. He thought to himself: "Life is good. When does a fellow have the chance to kiss a beautiful girl and slap his commanding officer all at the same time!"

Date: **Tue, 21 Mar 2000** 16:07:16 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **Council 2000 Highlights**

IFIP recently held its regular March Council and related meetings in Washington D.C. In accordance with established best practices by the Delivery Co. we continue to keep you

"enlightened" on major IFIP developments and are pleased to bring the highlights of the debates and decisions during the literally HOT [over 80 degrees F.] Council days in Washington D.C.

As usual, further formal notes will come with the Council 2000 Minutes, which will be ready and distributed in April.

[P.N. – This part is deleted. The information is included in the Executive Summary of Council 2000 Minutes]

This is all for now and we hope it encapsulates the Council 2000 highlights. Further material will come with the Minutes. Thank you all for your continued support, have a great week and stay tuned to the Voice of IFIP.

The Delivery Co. 😊

P.S. ... and the expected joke reward for March follows:

A Fisherman's Friend

Having arrived at the edge of the river, the fisherman soon realized he had forgotten to bring any bait. Just then he happened to see a little snake passing by who had caught a worm. The fisherman snatched up the snake and robbed him of his worm. Feeling sorry for the little snake with no lunch, he snatched him up again and poured a little beer down his throat and went about his fishing.

An hour or so later the fisherman felt a tug at his pant leg. Looking down, he saw the same snake with three more worms.

2. INFORMATION RELEASES FROM THE IFIP SECRETARIAT

Date: **Mon, 18 May 1998** 12:35:47 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **Congress '98 Info. Release**

IFIP INFORMATION RELEASE - PLEASE DISTRIBUTE WIDELY

Below is the latest Information Release on Congress '98. Please distribute widely and help us make Congress '98 a landmark in the history of Information Processing.

Please note that the Program is now available in hard copy and online. The Organizing Committee is proceeding with the mailing of the printed Program brochure (in bulk and as individual copies) to IFIP Member Societies, GA reps, TC/WG members and to various distribution lists.

YOU will get your personal copy VERY SOON!

= IFIP World Computer Congress 1998 =

The detailed program of the 15th IFIP World Computer Congress is now available both as a printed brochure and on the Web at <http://www.ocg.or.at/ifip98.html> or <http://www.njszt.iif.hu/ifip98.htm>. 700 papers from 86 countries were submitted to the Program Committees of the seven conferences. Following a stringent review, 294 papers, 88 short papers and a number of posters were selected for presentation between 31 August and 4 September in Vienna or Budapest.

In view of the high quality of contributions, six of the seven conferences will convene on all four Congress days. The Fundamentals conference, focussing on basic and theoretical issues that make information society possible, will take place in Vienna on 31 August and 1 September. The Congress will accommodate up to 16 parallel tracks.

Participants are requested to register for one conference (in order to receive the printed proceedings of the specific conference) but are allowed to switch from one track to another according to their specific interests.

Each congress day will start with a keynote presentation to the whole IFIP Congress. Four outstanding keynote speakers will focus on major global trends of information technology. Tutorials, seminars and workshops are scheduled before and after the Congress, on 30 August and 5 September. A Youth Summit will be organized in parallel to Congress '98 where young people will have the opportunity to articulate their views and expectations to the IT community and politicians. "The Pioneers Day", an initiative started in 1994 and to be continued at the 15th IFIP Congress, will be intended to focus on Austrian, Hungarian and international episodes of computer science history. Exhibitions will be organized in both cities presenting the latest hardware, software and publications in the field of IT.

Prof. Egon Hörbst, chairman of the International Program Committee, proudly presents the Congress program: "The program gives a good opportunity to study the major technologies and applications which will be the base of future society and to discuss its impact with colleagues from more than 80 countries of our globe".

PLEASE NOTE that the deadline for early registration is 12 JUNE 1998. If you register before this date you will get a substantial discount on the Congress fee.

For more information, please contact:

Oesterreichische Computer Gesellschaft - OCG
or
John v. Neumann Computer Society - NJSzT

Date: **Fri, 20 Nov 1998** 15:20:16 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **UNESCO Express**

IFIP INFOCORNER - UNESCO Express

In November 1997, the Extraordinary NGO-UNESCO Conference in Paris elected IFIP as member of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, a body of 9 with the mandate to:

- **represent** the interests of UNESCO centered NGOs with regard to UNESCO
- **cooperate** with the Director General
- **implement** the resolutions adopted by the international conference of NGOs
- **ensure** appropriate exchange of information
- **make** preparations for subsequent sessions of the conference
- **ensure** that the interests and opinions of NGOs taken collectively are reflected by UNESCO
- **inform** NGOs of possibilities open to them to participate in such conferences.

The '97 Extraordinary NGO-UNESCO Conference was convened after the greater part of the NGOs were reclassified from the previous system of A, B and C status to formal and operational relations.

One of the most important tasks of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee (elected for a one-year term) was to prepare the next Regular NGO Conference and to take appropriate action to establish the NGO structure and organization in accordance with the new working principles of UNESCO related to NGOs.

The regular International Conference of NGOs was convened from 16 to 19 November 1998 in UNESCO House, Paris. Over 200 representatives of international organizations associated with UNESCO took part. The Conference reviewed the activities since the Extraordinary Conference in November 1997.

The Conference continued with high quality presentations and discussion on "Contemporary Science, Ethics and Human Rights" and "UNESCO and the Eradication of Poverty", followed by 3 parallel workshops on "Information, Communication and the Sharing of Knowledge", "The Power and Limits of Science and Law" and "Poverty". The 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights was appropriately noted with the participation of international and French dignitaries and representatives of UNESCO.

On 18 November the Conference proceeded to elect its leadership for the next 3 years:

1. A Council of 40 NGOs
2. An NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee of 9
3. The new President of the NGO - UNESCO Liaison Committee

The good news is that IFIP was reelected as member of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. Currently 400 international non-governmental organizations are associated with UNESCO out of which 90 are in formal relations.

The Conference adopted 7 Resolutions [one of them on Information and Communication] and requested the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee to put in place the appropriate working structure for their implementation in cooperation with the respective UNESCO program sectors.

An invitation was extended to host the next 2001 NGO Conference in India.

The Newly elected President and NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee held its first meeting on 19 November. IFIP was invited to consider its involvement in the implementation of possible actions with respect to information and communication.

P. Nedkov
Paris-Laxenburg, 19 November 1998

Date: **Fri, 10 Dec 1999** 15:41:16 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **BB**

Dear GA,

Some of the "senior" IFIPers will remember Brigitte Bardot's glory days and will probably assume that the BB subject carries a "star dust" content. Sorry to disappoint if that is what you expect. BB actually stands for our new ad hoc INFO service "Bits & Bytes" intended to update you on IFIP.

Here is the October-December 99 issue of BB:

NEW GA REPRESENTATIVES

Immediately before GA 99 the following new GA representatives joined IFIP:

South Korea - Dr. Jongsung Sunwoo, Vice-President of the National Computerization Agency

Syria - Dr. Bahir Mounajed, representative of SCS

Norway - Dr. Arne Berre, representative of NCS

In November 99, we were pleased to welcome:

Italy - Prof. Arrigo Frisiani, representative of AICA

New Zealand - Ms. Gillian Reid, President of NZCS

[Please note that updated contact information for all GA representatives is available at <http://www.ifip.or.at/members.htm> . A GA Job description is available at http://www.ifip.or.at/bulletin/b_GAjob.htm]

ZEMANEK ANNIVERSARY-- On 3 December 99, the 80th Anniversary of Prof. Heinz Zemanek, IFIP Honorary member, Past President and IFIP Historian was notably celebrated at

the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Among the distinguished speakers were the President of the University of Vienna, the Secretary General of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, senior government officials, representatives of academia and business. The Bundeskanzler of the Republic of Austria, Viktor Klima, took part in the ceremony and talked about Prof. Zemanek and his many achievements and contributions. The IFIP President conveyed IFIP's congratulations and thanks to Prof. Zemanek for his long and faithful service to IFIP. Richard Tanaka, IFIP Honorary Member and Past President, talked about the contributions of Prof. Zemanek to IFIP and the world community of Information Processing.

The IFIP representatives were very pleased to observe the support, respect and deep-rooted tradition allotted to Prof. Zemanek and to IFIP in the Austrian community at large.

SEARCC EXCO and CONVENTION 99-- Following an invitation from the SEARCC President and Secretary General, the IFIP President and the IFIP Executive Director attended the SEARCC Executive Committee meeting and the SEARCC 99 convention in Singapore, 1-2 December. The visit gave an excellent opportunity for SEARCC and IFIP to review new forms and areas for future cooperation. There were contacts with representatives of IFIP member societies from the region who welcomed the visit and stressed their support and involvement of their Societies in IFIP. Mr. Alex Siow, President of the Singapore Computer Society and IFIP GA representative is the new President of SEARCC.

IFIP INTERNET PRESENCE-- The trend set in August 99 [over 100,000 monthly hits on the IFIP webserver] has successfully continued in September, October and November. This is good news for everyone as we have the whole IFIP community inter-linked and traffic is guided toward Members, TCs & WGs, Event organizers, partners...

UNESCO-- The IFIP-UNESCO relations have gone through a successful period of development. The Modular Curriculum on Informatics was successfully completed and the results were delivered to UNESCO. UNESCO offered a new contract to IFIP for a UNESCO/IFIP working group meeting to prepare the integration of the informatics course components implemented in the structure of the Modular Training Program and to provide guidelines for UNESCO and the authors of the modules. Such a meeting is planned for February 2000 in Vienna. Another contract for an Elementary Education Curriculum was offered to IFIP and the TC 3 Chair is currently putting together a team. Other initiatives are in the pipeline. The IFIP-UNESCO Liaison Officer is involved in the NGO-Liaison committee and in a small subgroup, commissioned to coordinate activities within the NGO community and to develop Guidelines for a joint UNESCO/NGO Commission dedicated to Communication.

EB MEETING IN NYC--The IFIP Executive Board will meet on 14 and 15 January in New York to address some of the issues and actions requested by GA 99 in Malaysia and take the opportunity to meet with ACM officers and staff at the ACM headquarters.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEES: TC5 AND TC6 -- We are pleased to inform you that the TC 5 Chair reported with an optimistic ring that TC 5 is back on track with a successful Annual meeting in Berlin, 11 September '99. Prof Doumeingts said that the intention is to project oriented activities in future. At least two projects are in the pipeline, one being project COVE - COoperation infrastructure for Virtual Enterprises and electronic business. There was also a successful TC 5 Conference on Infrastructures for Virtual Enterprises, 27-28 October in Porto, Portugal [Proceedings now available - "Infrastructures for Virtual Enterprises" Eds. Camarinha-Matos, Afsarmanesh, ISBN 0-7923-8639-6]

TC 6, traditionally very strong in events and publications, had a successful string of events in developing countries. In one of the next issues on the Newsletter there will be an article about TC 6 activities in Latin America. There was a successful Broadband Communication 99 conference in Hong Kong, 10-12 November [Proceedings now available - "Broadband Communications: Convergence of Network Technologies" Eds. Tsang, Kuhn/ ISBN 0-7923-8677-9] and the Smartnet'99 conference in Bangkok 22-26 November [Proceedings now available - "Intelligence in Networks" Eds. Yongchareon, Aegesen, Wuwongse, ISBN 0-7923-8691-4].

Please note - All current and future IFIP events are included in the IFIP Calendar available at http://www.ifip.or.at/cal_even.htm . Information about IFIP publications is available at <http://www.ifip.or.at/public.htm>.

HOW TO JOIN IFIP/ BOYANOV EXPLORES CONTACTS WITH EASTERN EUROPE -- Prof. Kiril Boyanov, IFIP Trustee and Bulgarian GA representative, has worked hard to establish contacts with organizations from Romania, Ukraine and Latvia with a potential interest to join IFIP. Other IFIP GA representatives can also be instrumental in raising the IFIP awareness in their respective region. To help, we have put together a note on "**How to Join IFIP**" which is available from our homepage at <http://www.ifip.or.at>

This is all for now. Greetings from Laxenburg,

The Delivery Co. ☺

PS. EB members are currently practicing for the New York meeting and one activity relates to local customs and practices. Here is a story you might enjoy :-)

Loan

Before going to Europe on business, a man drove his Rolls-Royce to a downtown New York City bank and went in to ask for an immediate loan of \$5,000.

The loan officer, taken aback, requested collateral and so the man said, "Well then, here are the keys to my Rolls-Royce."

The loan officer promptly had the car driven into the bank's underground parking for safekeeping, and gave him \$5,000.

Two weeks later, the man walked through the bank's doors, and asked to settle up his loan and get his car back.

"That will be \$5,000 in principal, and \$15.40 in interest", the loan officer said.

The man wrote out a check and started to walk away.

"Wait sir", the loan officer said, "while you were gone, I found out you are a millionaire. Why in the world would you need to borrow \$5,000?"

The man smiled. "Where else could I park my Rolls-Royce in Manhattan for two weeks and pay only \$15.40?"

Date: **Wed, 26 Jan 2000** 10:51:45 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **"BB", volume 2, no.1/2000**

Dear All,

It takes some time and effort to see the old year off and to greet the oncoming year in an appropriate festive way. For this reason the Delivery Co. kept low not to interfere with your celebrations. We trust everyone is now back on "routine mode" and here is the first issue of our "BB" [sorry, no Brigittes ;-)] Infoservice for the Year 2000, intended to keep you abreast of IFIP developments.

1. The Ruby Anniversary [IFIP@40]-- This year IFIP turns 40 and we have looked into various ways to mark the Anniversary. The cover of the Information Bulletin No. 30 [a copy of which you will receive soon] will display the ruby color, representative of the occasion. "This is IFIP" [see below] is also dedicated to the 40th Anniversary.

The December issue of the Newsletter [now available online at <http://www.ifip.or.at>] contains an article "IFIP Celebrates the 40th Anniversary of Its First Congress" with a reprint of part of the recollections of Isaac Auerbach, founding president of IFIP, written in 1985 for the book "A Quarter Century of IFIP: the IFIP Silver Summary" (edited by Prof. Heinz Zemanek). This part deals with the first Congress. There are plans to include the remainder of the article, dealing with the founding of IFIP (in 1960), in one of the next issues of the IFIP Newsletter.

2. "This is IFIP" Brochure--50,000 copies of the "This is IFIP" brochure were printed and distributed to the Secretariats of IFIP's member societies in early January.

An electronic version of the "This is IFIP" Brochure is NOW available in pdf format on the Announcements page at <http://www.ifip.or.at>

3. Auerbach Award and Congress 2004 - DEADLINE 31.1.2000 -- This is to remind IFIP's Full Members that the deadline for submitting nominations for the Auerbach Award is 31 January, 2000. The deadline for submitting bids for hosting IFIP Congress 2004 is also 31 January, 2000.

We are aware that several societies are working on Letters of Invitation for Congress 2004 and it would be appreciated if by 31 January these societies contact the IFIP Secretariat to confirm their interest and to submit the requested letters and supporting documentation.

4. Executive Board meets in New York-- Executive Board met in New York on 14 and 15 January to address issues and actions requested by GA 99 in Malaysia. One of the results of the EB meeting is a new format for the organization of future IFIP Council and GA meetings. Several strategic priorities were considered, among them Digital Libraries and relations to Industry.

5. Council 2000 preparations under way-- A site for IFIP Council 2000 is established at <http://www.ifip.or.at/events/congress.htm>

6. Slovenian Society "INFORMATIKA" nominates representatives to all IFIP TCs -- Good news from Slovenia: The President of "INFORMATIKA" wrote to inform us that the Society has nominated representatives to all IFIP TCs. A list is currently prepared with mailing addresses and other contact data and will be distributed shortly to our TC Chairs. Other Member societies are

also encouraged to nominate representatives to TCs in which they are currently inactive or have no representation.

7. Things to remember: Another fine IFIP product is available online --The TC 9 SIG 9.2.2 brochure on "Ethics and the Governance of the Internet" is available online at <http://www.info.fundp.ac.be/~jbl/IFIP/cadresIFIP.html>

Servus from snow-covered Laxenburg,

The Delivery Co. 😊

P.S. ...and here's your January story

THE BOY AND THE FROG

A boy was crossing the road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess."

He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for one week." The boy took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to his pocket.

The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I'll stay with you and do *Anything* you want." Again the boy took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket.

Finally, the frog asked, "What is it? I've told you that I'm a beautiful Princess, that I'll stay with you for a week and do *Anything* you want. Why won't you kiss me?!?"

The boy said, "Look, I'm a computer programmer. I don't have time for girlfriends, but a talking frog is really cool."

Date: **Tue, 15 Feb 2000** 11:02:07 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **DG meets the NGO Liaison Committee**

For Immediate Release

Paris, 14 February -- UNESCO's new DG meets with the NGO Liaison Committee

Mr. Koichiro MATSUURA (Japan), Director General of UNESCO met today with the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, a body of 9 organizations elected in 1998 by the NGO conference for a 3-year term with the mandate to represent the interests of over 400 international NGOs with UNESCO. Mr. Matsuura, who succeeded Mr. Federico Mayor (Spain) as UNESCO's DG in November 1999 [ref. <http://www.unesco.org/opi/eng/unescopress/99-255e.htm>], assured the Liaison Committee that he was dedicated to decentralization of activities and strengthening partnerships with professional organizations. NGOs will have an important role in UNESCO's future strategy and the DG was personally committed to assist cooperative initiatives of the Liaison Committee. Representatives of the 9 organizations [ref. <http://www.ifip.or.at/UNESCO/unesco.htm>] were invited to present the activities of their organizations and to discuss plans and initiatives of the Liaison Committee.

The Liaison Committee then proceeded with its regular meeting. The agenda included a project for a Joint NGO/UNESCO Committee on Communications and new Technologies. Preparatory work was done by a 3-member subgroup of the Liaison Committee [the reps. of the International Federation for Information Processing, the International Council of French-speaking Radio and Television and the International Council for Distance Education] with a survey to identify the interests of the NGO community in the field. 60 NGOs had responded to a questionnaire and among the most favored topics for projects were:

- Informatics and the Internet in the educational process (with a particular emphasis on developing countries);
- New technologies to assist development in the South;
- Developments in Communications;
- Ethics and Legal aspects related to the Internet.

Date: **Fri, 18 Feb 2000** 12:46:39 +0100
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **Friday's Special BB issue**

Dear All,

It has been a hard week's work and we all need a good joke to cut-off and enjoy the 2 rewarding days of leisure the weekend offers. Before that, however, you might be interested to know that

*OVER 1,500 papers submitted for IFIP Congress 2000

Over 1,500 papers were submitted by the designated deadline of 10 February and another 300 or so have gone directly to Conference Chairs. The review process, which is highly dependent on electronic communications and the Internet as befits our profession, is in progress. And to spice these excellent developments -- Tony Hoare will be one of the keynote speakers and the Opening Ceremony is planned to take place in the Great Hall of the People!

* SADIO/Argentina will celebrate its Ruby Anniversary

Like IFIP, SADIO this year will celebrate its 40th Anniversary. The date is 30 March, however, celebrations are planned to take place throughout April.

* New FESI Officers/Spain

We were contacted by FESI with the information that new Officer elections were recently held. The newly elected President of FESI is Prof. Emilio Torrano Gimenez. Anselmo del Moral, our current GA representative continues as IFIP's Spanish Delegate to the General Assembly and was also elected as FESI Vice President. Congratulations to Messrs. Torrano Gimenez and del Moral!

* Merci, Xie Xie, Danke, Blagodarim, Shukran, Gracias, Todaraba, Koszonom, Obrigado, Dekuji,.... which boils down to a big "THANK YOU"!

We've barely sent out the invoices for the Year 2000 membership dues and many of our Members responded with a "lightening" transfer. Our Honors List of societies with settled 2000 dues so far includes Members from ANDORRA, AUSTRIA, BULGARIA, CHINA, FINLAND, HUNGARY, The NETHERLANDS, PORTUGAL, SOUTH AFRICA, SWEDEN, THAILAND, UK and ICELAND.

* Response to our mails: UNESCO Information Release and the E-Government & E-Society Memoranda

Thank you to everyone who wrote to tell us that they appreciate to receive such information. The UNESCO release started an electronic discussion within TC 3 and TC 9 while several societies informed us that they are involved in advising their government and found the Memoranda very useful. The Delivery Co. will keep this in mind.

Have a nice weekend and enjoy the joke below,

The Delivery Co. ☺

... and the E-Joker, after devastating Yahoo and CNN, strikes again with the following new "**Electronic Microorganisms**"

Government Economist Virus: Nothing works, but all your diagnostic software says everything is fine.

Federal Bureaucrat Virus: Divides your hard disk into hundreds of little units, each of which does practically nothing, but all of which claim to be the most important part of your computer.

Congressional Virus: The computer locks up, screen splits erratically with a message appearing on each half blaming the other side for the problem.

Airline Virus: You're in London, but your data is in Singapore.

Hillary Rodham Clinton Virus: Instantly turns 1 K of disk space into 1 Meg.

Jane Fonda Virus: Attacks your hard drive's FAT.

Adam and Eve Virus: Takes a couple of bytes out of your Apple computer.

"That's all Folks" Virus: Terminates interesting email ..#*&^|#%

3. LOTTERIES

Date: **Wed, 14 Apr 1999** 09:14:49 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **We did it again!**

Dear All,

The Minutes of the March 99 IFIP Council Meeting in Goa, India are now available at <http://www.ifip.or.at/minutes.htm>. While you devour them don't forget the Action List!

We continue to enhance our "click-n-go" minute service intended to guide you comfortably through the maze so please try us out at <http://www.ifip.or.at/minutes/goa99.htm>.

Now something S P E C I A L - All who answer correctly the following 3 questions by 16 April

- What is the URL of IFIP Congress 2000?
- What is the URL of JEIDA?
- Who is the IFIP Congress 2002 OC Chair?

will enter a lottery draw. The winner will receive 2 free IFIP books, which she/he will be able to select from the list of IFIP publications available at <http://www.wkap.nl/series.htm/IFIP>
[You can find all the answers in the Minutes]

GOOD LUCK!

The Delivery Co.

Date: **Mon, 19 Apr 1999** 17:28:29 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **The Winner**

Dear All,

*We are pleased to announce the result of last week's lottery. The lucky winner is:
Sally Jo Cunningham, National Council Member, New Zealand Computer Society*

Our independent search showed that Sally Chairs the Waikato Branch of the NZCS. You can see her smile at <http://www.nzcs.org.nz/nz/regions/waipao.htm>.

CONGRATULATIONS Sally! Please make your choice of 2 books from the list at <http://www.wkap.nl/series.htm/IFIP> and write to <ifip@ifip.or.at>.

The response to our first lottery is flattering - we convey our BIG "Thank You" to everyone who took part! This success entuses us to consider further initiatives so stay with us for further opportunities!

The Delivery Co. ☺.

P.S. ... and your APRIL AWARD

The Stuff of Fairy Tales

Once upon a time, a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess came across a frog in a pond.

The frog said to the princess, "I was once a handsome prince until an evil witch put a spell on me. One kiss from you and I will turn back into a prince and then we can marry, move into the castle with my mom, and you can prepare my meals, clean my clothes, bear my children and forever feel happy doing so."

That night the princess dined on frogs' legs and made plans for the future.

Date: **Thu, 05 Aug 1999** 16:31:07 +0200
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
Subject: **Win a Free IFIP Congress registration**

Dear IFIP Friend,

YOU could be the lucky winner of a free registration for the IFIP World Computer Congress, 21 - 25 August 2000 in Beijing China [URL <http://www.wcc2000.org>] by answering the three questions below and by submitting your answers by email directly to <organizer@www.wcc2000.org> by 25 August 1999.

The draw will happen at the IFIP GA 99 in Malaysia in the presence of IFIP's General Assembly representatives.

All members of IFIP Member societies, TCs and WGs are eligible to participate so please pass on this message to other colleagues in addition to your personal participation in the lottery.

Good Luck!

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT TO <organizer@wcc2000.org> by 25 August 1999 so as to participate in the IFIP Lottery for a Free Congress 2000 registration

IFIP LOTTERY - FREE CONGRESS 2000 REGISTRATION

1. What is the name of the International Program Committee Chair of IFIP Congress, 21 - 25 August 2000, Beijing, China? _____
2. Which is the longest and largest Chinese river? _____
3. Which man-made construction, stretching over 6,000 kms, can be clearly seen from outer space? _____

NAME:

ADDRESS:

AFFILIATION: (Member Society, TC, WG, other)

[N.B. You can search for clues at Congress 2000 web site <http://www.wcc2000.org>]

All correct submissions will enter the final draw, which will be organized during the IFIP General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, 8 - 9 September 1999

Along with your answers we would appreciate to know whom you would personally like to see as a Keynote Speaker at IFIP Congress 2000 in Beijing China _____

Date: Wed, 22 Sep 1999 16:30:24 +020
From: Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@ifip.or.at>
*Subject: **The Winner***

Dear All,

The lottery draw for a free IFIP Congress 2000 registration was held during IFIP General Assembly, 5-9 September 99, Malaysia.

There were 75 submissions out of which 51 had correct answers.

*Pyramid 2 Conference Hall at the Convention Center of Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel provided the setting where all GA 99 participants observed the organization of the draw. Mr. Mengqi Zhou (Congress 2000 Organizing Committee) placed 51 envelopes with correct submissions in a box. The envelopes were shuffled by Mrs. Rita de Caluwe (Belgium) and Mr. George Boynton (Canada) and then handed over to Mr. Zhou who invited Mrs. Dorothy Hayden of the Secretariat to handpick the winner. Dorothy did this with finesse and handed over the envelope to the President who after serious concentration opened the envelope and after a pause announced the winner ... "Me", Mr. Bollerslev said. There was a sigh in the audience and the President clarified that the actual winner is **GIANCARLO MAURI** (Italy).*

Prof. Giancarlo Mauri is the Chairman of IFIP WG 1.5 on Cellular Automata and Machines. The mission of the working group is to support the development of cellular automata theory and their applications (especially in parallel computing, in the study of complex systems, in physics, biology, artificial life,...) and to pursue the design and utilization of cellular automata machines. A non-exclusive list of topics includes cellular automata as models of parallelism, complex systems, dynamical systems, interactive behavior, physical systems and models of biological systems as well as cellular automata machines.

Congratulations, Giancarlo! We all look forward to meet you in Beijing.

*Normally the winner takes it all. This time it is different! All 75 persons who participated in the lottery are eligible to take part in a second draw for **S P E C I A L** Chinese Gifts [we hope they offer panda bears :-)] which will be organized during the Welcome Reception of Congress 2000 on 21 August 2000 in Beijing.*

75 participants - Don't miss this Chance! And all the rest of you out there - please check occasionally the Congress 2000 <http://www.wcc2000.org> and help us promote the last IFIP Congress of the Millennium (we get confused with the turn of the Millennia, don't you?) during the year in which IFIP turns 40.

Servus from Laxenburg,

*IFIPSEC
(The Delivery Co.)*

4. PAPERS

The following two papers were prepared for the 11th Annual Conference of the Computer Society of South Africa, 5-6 October 1999, Midrand, South Africa

IFIP's Role in the Future Economy

P. Bollerslev
IFIP President

P. Nedkov
IFIP Executive Director

The phases of human development are identified with such symbols as the stone axe, sword and bow, gunpowder, nuclear energy and computing power. Representative of these phases is the way Man communicates and processes information - this ability is inherent to Man and other living organisms and should not be attributed only to Modern Society. However, the tools for searching, delivering and processing useful information during the last few decades have developed to perform operations at lightning speed, which has revolutionized all human activities. A lot has been said and written on the impact of IT on human activity and we do not aim to outline these developments. Rather, we wish to single out some areas of IT industry, business and governance and highlight the respective IFIP activities. Some of these are described in another CSSA conference paper - *IFIP's Silver Bullet in Fostering International Knowledge Transfer*.

THE INTERNET

The Internet is the single phenomenon that has made the strongest impact on Society during this decade. It has changed our concepts of communications and our habits of work, business governance, leisure and behavioral patterns. It's magic solves many problems related to the speed and volume of transmitted material, to cost effectiveness, competitiveness, marketing, sales.... However, there are also problems that surface. Among these are issues of governance and regulation, ownership, security, privacy and legal matters such as copyrights, patents, ethical aspects and other.

What does IFIP offer in security and in legal and ethical issues

There are two IFIP Technical Committees involved in these areas:

TC 11 "Security and Protection in Information Processing Systems" - established in 1984 with the aims of increasing the reliability and general confidence in information processing, as well as to act as a forum for security managers and others professionally active in the field of information processing security. Its scope includes the establishment of a frame of reference for security common to organizations, professionals and the public and the promotion of security and protection as essential parts of information processing systems.

The Chairman of TC 11 is currently a South African, Prof. Basie von Solms. The Flagship TC 11 Event is the IFIP Computer Security Conference. In 1995 this conference was held in South Africa. TC 11 also issues statements on various matters such as Cryptography.

Some related publications:

"Information Security in Research & Business" Eds. L. Yngstroem, J. Carlsen

"Information Systems Security: Facing the Information Society of the 21st Century" Eds. Katsikas, Gritzalis

"Integrity and Internal Control in Information Systems" Eds. Jajodia, List, McGregor, Strous

TC 9 "Relationship between Computers and Society" - established in 1976 with the aims to influence the applications of computers with respect to individuals, groups, institutions and society. Its scope includes communicating social consequences, promoting social accountability, facilitating research, humanizing Information Systems, enhancing the Quality of Life, encouraging responsible long term planning and other.

One concrete output of this committee is the latest study on the Ethics and the Governance of the Internet, intended to promote discussion within IFIP Member Societies. This document is available electronically at <http://www.info.fundp.ac.be/~jbl/IFIP/cadresIFIP.html>

Some related publications:

"Ethics of Computing" Eds. Berleur, Brunnstein

"The Ethical Global Information Society" Eds. Berleur, Whitehouse

THE IT INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

Intel's Gordon Moore was a Keynote speaker at the IFIP 16th World Computer Congress last year in Vienna. He made a charismatic presentation demonstrating the power of IT to change management, production and market organization concepts. Moore's law may continue to be valid in future and but the current indicators and tendencies show that the PC business is slacking. There are several reasons, including market saturation and overproduction. The current PCs provide sufficient computing power to cope with the existing software and access to the Internet does not require more power as there is very little web content requiring new hardware. Users find it more worthwhile to spend money on increasing the bandwidth of their connection and on staying online for longer, which actually benefits providers and cable operators rather than the PC industry. The "stickiness" of the web sites is does not encourage significant software upgrades as this can cut out a segment of the visitors. It should also be noted that Internet databases and E-business provide Internet computing in which applications and data run entirely on servers and PCs are used as tools to gain access to these servers.

Following the initial breakthroughs of the "virtual" companies in e-commerce all big companies and businesses are getting on board. The competition is intense and companies with multi-channel businesses, strong brands and a mix of online and offline operations have the best chances. With respect to the supply chains, a study of Forrester Research shows that the computer and electronics industry sector is a leader followed by aerospace and defense. Then come utilities, followed by motor vehicles, shipping and warehousing, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals and medical. In e-commerce the USA is a leader by far. Next come Canada, the UK and Germany followed by Japan, France and Italy. According to Andersen Consulting, in 1998 e-commerce in Japan amounted to about USD 500 million worth of goods and services which represents 3% of the US share. This base is rather small and the big Japanese electronic groups are accelerating the process and e-commerce in Japan will grow at a 200% a year. Forecasts of the Ministry of International Trade and industry of Japan predict Japan's online sales should be worth 3.2 trillion Yens in 2003.

IT progress effects the heartbeat of the conventional marketplaces - the Exchanges. "Crossing networks" are becoming exceedingly popular and fund managers in the network who buy or sell shares no longer have to place their orders with brokers on an exchange but can deal directly with

other fund managers. This saves a significant part of the transaction costs, commissions and charges. Exchanges are more and more considering transforming from mutually owned by its members into shareholder companies, greatly due to the fact that cheap electronic communications networks are successfully overtaking old style exchanges with slow and conservative decision making process.

What does IFIP offer

IFIP Technical Committees involved in some of these aspects:

TC 5 "Computer Applications in Technology" (Computer-Aided Design, Computer-Aided Manufacturing, Industrial Software Quality and Certification, Maritime Industries, Computer-Aided Production Management, Computer Graphics and Virtual Worlds, Computers and Environment, Architectures for Enterprise Integration)

Some related publications:

"Advances in Production Management Systems" Eds. Okino, Tamura, Fujii

"Globalization of Manufacturing in the Digital Communications Era of the 21st Century", Eds. Jacucci, Olling, Preiss, Wozny

"Intelligent Systems for Manufacturing" Editors Camarinha-Matos, Afsarmanesh, Marik

TC 6 "Communication Systems" (Architecture and Protocols for Computer Networks, Broadband Communications, Performance of Communication Systems, High Performance Networks, Network Management for Communication Networks, Smart Networks, Wireless Communication, Photonic Networking)

Some related Publications:

"Integrated Network Management VI", Eds. Sloman, Mazumdar, Lupu

"Optical Networks", Eds. Marchis, Sabella

"Testing of Communication Systems", Eds. Csopari, Dibuz, Tarnay

TC 6 has an active Task Group on Electronic Commerce, which will be organizing a conference on Trends towards a Universal Service Market in May 2000 in Munich, Germany. This activity is likely to grow in a transversal organization.

TC 10 "Computer Systems Technology" (Computer-Aided Systems Theory, Concurrent Systems, Dependable Computing and Fault Tolerance, Design and Engineering of Electronic Systems, Neural Computer Systems, Microsystems)

Some related publications:

"VLSI: Integrated Systems on Silicon", Eds. Reis, Claesen

"Electronic Design Automation Frameworks IV" Eds. Rammig, Wagner

"Advances in Hardware Design & Verification" Eds. Li, Probst

There are also other TCs with a stronger theoretical emphasis but some aspects of their activities are certainly valuable as a theoretical basis for the IT industry and E-business. These are:

TC1 "Foundations of Computer Science" (Continuous Algorithms and Complexity, Description Complexity, Foundations of System Specifications, Computational Learning Theory,

Cellular Automata and Machines, Term Rewriting, Theoretical Foundations of Security Analysis and Design)

TC 2 "Software: Theory and Practice" (Algorithmic Languages and Calculi, Formal Description of Programming Concepts, Programming Methodology, System Implementation Languages, Numerical Software, Databases, User Interface Engineering, Functional Programming, Software Requirements Engineering)

TC 7 "System Modeling and Optimization" (Modeling and Simulation, Computational Techniques in Distributed Systems, Computer System Modeling, Discrete Optimization, Reliability and Optimization of Structural Systems, Optimization-Based Computer-Aided Modeling and Design, Stochastic Optimization)

GOVERNANCE

IT developments have impacted the organization at all levels - from National Governments to small business. A very important aspect is the positive influence on the decision making process.

The IFIP General Assembly in 1996 voted to amend its Statutes and Bylaws in the sense that "Members eligible to vote will be provided with adequate background information via mail, fax or e-mail, as appropriate, all of which will be acceptable media for returning votes, subject to appropriate verification procedures". Today, IFIP predominantly carries its business by e-mail and the web. This development in IFIP is an example for other organizations and businesses intending to maintain fast communication for the purposes of decision making.

What does IFIP offer

TC 8 "Information Systems" (Design and Evaluation of Information Systems, Interaction of Information Systems and the Organization, Decision Support Systems, Office Information Systems, Information Systems in Public Administration, Transfer and Diffusion of Information Technology, Informatics in International Business Enterprises, Smart Cards)

Some related publications:

"New Information Technologies in Organizational Processes", Eds. Ngenyama, Intona, Myers, DeGross

"Information Systems in the WWW Environment", Eds. Rolland, Fang, Chen

"Information Systems: Current Issues and Future Changes", Eds. Larsen, Levine, DeGross [now freely available in pdf format at <http://www.bi.no/dep2/infomgt/wg82-86/index.htm>]

IFIP will hold a conference on Advances in Electronic Government, 10 -11 February 2000, Zaragoza, Spain, and we highly recommend to all interested in the field to visit the conference URL at <http://www.unizar.es/DERECHO/FYD/cong.html>

EDUCATION

An underlying transversal theme related to all aspects of the Future Economy is education, training and workforce qualifications. Highly qualified people, able to maintain their qualifications and to gain new skills in school, out of school, at the workplace, at home and from the Internet are indispensable for the Knowledge Economy. Education, learning and teaching emerge in one way or another in all recent national and international documents where attempts are made to outline the road to the information society. Many countries have an officially approved information society strategy. These strategies often contain two main objectives: to develop and utilize the opportunities afforded by the information society; and to identify and

avoid possible threats related to this development. The strategies often emphasize that information technology and information networks are turning into major tools, that the information industry is important to the country's future economic development, that high-level expertise in information and communication technologies is essential, that all citizens should have basic skills in information technology. Stress is also made on the fact that an effective information infrastructure has to be created.

As a result of this emphasis on basic information technology skills and professional expertise, we see that the education system is one of the central areas where the information society strategy is being implemented. And we see various forms of lifelong learning emerging.

In the information society we will discover that the country's economy will change into

- an economy based on information and knowledge
- an economy based on information technology, intelligent logistics and project-organization and,
- an economy which serves and is served by quality-conscious and digitally oriented people.

These economic trends will place totally new kinds of challenges on lifelong learning and ethical competence, and consequently on all the policies and infrastructure responsible for continuously maintaining and developing peoples' skills.

There is a need to train citizens to use the technical tools, such as computers, information networks and multimedia, which constitute the most concretely visible part of the information society. This calls upon relatively sizeable information technology investments to be made in the educational sector. However, a warning must also be given here against becoming overly technocentric and this reminds us of the need to direct more attention to quality as we develop education, learning and teaching in an information society.

Alongside the narrow interpretation of the information society, which concentrates on technical equipment and its use, we must also adopt a wider view, especially when considering the challenges and possibilities of education and training. We must consider the profound qualitative changes in peoples' lives brought by the information society. Profound changes in the cultures of work and know-how are connected with the rapid construction of an information society, the emergence of digital and global economy and the development of additional media. It is impossible to predict these changes accurately, but based on the most advanced working life practices and visions provided by futurology we can outline some trends in the ways work is changing and assess the competence requirements related to these changes.

As a result of technological development, significant changes in the structures of work are taking place. This can especially be seen in the growing importance of information-based services, or, to use different terminology, symbolic-analytical services. Although the significance of information-based work will grow the importance and need for other kind of activities – routine work and personal services – will remain. On the other hand, some visions of the information society assume "the end of work", meaning that a relatively substantial proportion of the population will not do salaried work in the traditional sense. Discussions of the educational and training needs of the information society have usually been tied to the demands of information-based work. However, the perspective should be expanded to include opportunities for basic education and lifelong learning for those who will be excluded from this type of work. Some form of selection or tracking is an inevitable part of education, but it is essential that such selection to shorter educational tracks will not effectively suffocate a person's learning skills and motivation, as these are important for continuous learning.

The information society is not reflected in our lives only through work; our entire environment is also undergoing similar changes. Ensuring our development and well-being outside of work requires us to develop our information society skills. When examining the information society, we need to widen our perspective: rather than looking narrowly at information society skills and taking a work-centered approach, we need to broaden our view to take into account the whole spectrum of life. On the other hand, the tools brought by the development of the information society offer many opportunities for new kinds of participation and learning taking place outside of educational institutions. Peoples' relationship to information and communication technologies can be assessed from the perspective of their entire life-span by looking at the various roles an individual has in different stages of life: in working life, leisure time, as a member of a family etc.

The development in a certain society will of course largely be determined by how well individual people, organizations and the entire society are able to meet these demands on their competence and ability to function.

We can identify at least six new challenges:

- Managing complex, ill-defined problems and rapid change is emerging as an increasingly central strategy for "survival". Increasing information does not unambiguously make our lives more manageable, but in many cases leads rather to growing uncertainty. With the tools provided by technology, people attempt to steer and control their environments with increasing efficiency, but at the same time the social, cultural and economic environment shaped by that technology is becoming more difficult to control and to predict. Formal and precisely defined knowledge alone is not enough for managing this complexity, as we need to be able to combine the knowledge traditionally transmitted through education to the informal knowledge which develops in connection with various activities and which usually cannot be accurately described or defined. Rapid changes in social and political practices and in peoples' social and technological operating environments require that both individuals and organizations flexibly restructure their old practices and thought models and learn continuously. This in turn calls for a more developed understanding of knowledge and how it is constructed in individuals and in social practices. Learners must adopt a learning orientation which aims at surpassing their own expertise limits and acquiring high-quality skills that are manifested as the ability to adapt their expertise and learning to the requirements of their present activities.
- A new operational model is emerging in production, scientific activities, administration and everyday practices. In it competence and expertise can no longer be described as the skills of one individual only, but are instead the collaborative expertise of teams and networks, a socially shared cognition. Shared and distributed expertise is different from the traditional model of the division of labor. For one, there is no "higher" management which, in principle, has a mastery of the entire problem being solved and assigns various steps to be carried out by different experts; rather, the networking of expertise takes place without any such hierarchical organization. In addition, networks of expertise often center around projects. They emerge quickly for the purpose of solving some particular problem, and once the problem is over they disband. For individuals, the essential skill is the ability quickly and spontaneously to create reciprocal cooperation and communication relationships between experts who represent different types of expertise. For organizations, the essential skill is to be able to create and use the various cognitive tools needed in group problem solving. One such tool, for example, is network-based flexible applications, which support communication and the collaborative memory of an organization or a network.

- Successful work in an environment based on information networks and increasingly globalized information sources require new kinds of information technology and communication skills, along with the intellectual capacity to control them. For example, it is only data that moves in information networks. Not until data becomes organized does it turn into information. Information only becomes knowledge and wisdom through the interpreting processes of a person with expertise. Network technology creates enormous possibilities but demands high levels of skill from its users. The issue is not just technical mastery of network use, but above all the cognitive skills of presenting and developing skills of presenting and developing meaningful questions, and interpreting information by integrating it with previously accumulated knowledge and giving it an appropriate context. One must also be able to assess critically the reliability and relevance of information. Because of these severe demands, the development of information networks may actually lead to undemocratic restriction of access to (meaningful) information unless education and training can ensure not only sufficient technical skills but also especially the cognitive skills necessary for using information sources. By these skills we mean both the skills needed for processing and evaluating information as well as a well-organized foundation of prior knowledge.
- Since networks enable rapid interaction between people representing various cultures and professions or people and organizations previously unknown to each other, the challenges of reciprocity and understanding others become even more complex. Network-based operating practices are not just about possessing the skills to use information technology hardware and media, but of possessing more general skills of cooperation, information processing and communication. The essential element in these skills is ensuring that the information acquired through the networks be understood and transferred (by all parties) into usable knowledge by connecting it to meaningful contexts.
- The development of an information society confronts people with new kinds of ethical problems. Ethical issues emerge in a concrete way when we evaluate the contents of information networks and the possibilities of using them as sources of learning and as environments for children and young people.
- Many recent surveys show that ever new demands on people's skills and competencies are being made by technology and the economy. However, we should also pause to take a look at whether the starting point offered by the economy and technology might be too one-sided when it comes to the goals of learning. We must ask how these goals fit in relation to the prerequisites for learning, whether people are motivated for the kind of continuous learning envisioned by the information society and whether it is ethically justified to force people into the extended compulsory education that serves the information society.

What does IFIP offer

Hopefully these viewpoints show that education is a very important issue in relation to the future development of our societies. IFIP is fully aware of their importance and our Technical Committee 3 on Education and its seven working groups are involved in all the aspects mentioned above.

* * *

The authors of this paper are no experts on the South African economy but they are aware that South Africa is politically stable and that its laws are among the most liberal. These two conditions are prerequisites for future development, competitiveness and integration in the world economy. South Africa has launched intensive privatization programs and is dedicated to streamline bureaucracy. There are niches in industry and business in which it is quite advanced

and is seen as a regional leader. In parallel, there are also challenges and problems as in many other countries - labor qualifications, infrastructure development, unemployment, export portfolio mix between industrial technology products and services and raw materials, competitive presence on international markets, etc.

Many experts and governments see the role of IT as the winning ticket to narrow the gap between the North and the South. One such country is Malaysia where IFIP just held its last General Assembly meeting from 5 to 9 September 1999. The grand Malaysian IT project, the Multimedia Super Corridor, initiated in 1996 and officially opened in July 99, is expected to take two decades to complete. The vision is for an Asian Silicon Valley with over 200 companies signed to invest including such IT giants as the Japanese NTT, Alcatel, IBM, Hewlett Packard, Microsoft and Sun. The area known as Cyberjaya is planned one day to be the home of several hundred thousand people with all the modern amenities including a Multimedia University, theme parks, film studios, schools, apartments and futuristic leisure facilities. Close by, Singapore and Hong Kong are also building multi-billion dollar technology parks with the perception that IT is the trump card for future success.

How can the South African IT industry benefit from what IFIP offers?

IFIP offers a wide interactive network of national societies, partner organizations, IT professionals and experts which represent academia, industry and the public sector in all world regions. Its business meetings and its extensive program of conferences offer an excellent opportunity both to academics and to IT practitioners to meet and to discuss research and business so as to create new partnerships and alliances.

IFIP as an interface between research and industry:

- IFIP as a partner to IT companies

One example is the joint IFIP/Telkom Conference on E-Commerce in Transportation, Tourism and Recreation planned for May 2000 in Durban, South Africa.

CSSA, as an IFIP Member, is in a good position to act as a partner and intermediary between IFIP and the S. African IT industry in designing and organizing conferences on topics of interest to the IT industry in S. Africa. It is worth noting that many conferences organize exhibitions where the IT industry can exhibit and mingle with IT practitioners and representatives of academia.

- New IFIP Committee for Cooperation with Industry

During the IFIP General Assembly 99 in Malaysia a new IFIP Committee for Cooperation with Industry was established under the Chairmanship of Mr. T. Miura, IFIP Vice-President and Japanese representative to IFIP with members from Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Norway and the USA. One of its main objectives is to evaluate the current interaction between IFIP and industry and to come up with recommendations so as to set conditions for a more active and direct participation of Industry in IFIP. All IFIP member societies are invited to contribute to this work and CSSA is most welcome to provide an input reflecting the interests of the IT industry in South Africa.

Assisting partnerships between CSSA and the South African IT Industry

Again, CSSA can be instrumental in attracting representatives of the South African IT Industry to apply and join IFIP's Working Group activities or become representatives of South Africa in some of IFIP's TCs. This in turn can enhance CSSA's interaction with industry and the creation of long-term partnerships.

IFIP as a strategic planning forum

During the General Assemblies we have introduced a Members' Forum where representatives discuss the various issues of concern in the respective countries. This Forum gives the possibility to select issues of common concern and projects of mutual interest, to be further pursued by IFIP.

IFIP Projects and activities

Some IFIP projects are described in the paper "*IFIP's Silver Bullet in the Fostering International Knowledge Transfer*".

A Calendar of IFIP Events is available at http://www.ifip.or.at/cal_even.htm

CSSA can play a proactive role in attracting more IFIP Conferences in South Africa such as the IFIP Conference on IT and Developing Countries: Information Flows, Local Improvisations and Work Practices, May 2000, Cape Town.

IFIP Lectureship and Tutorial Programs

In cooperation with its Member Societies IFIP is willing to discuss and implement projects. One simple way to organize such projects is to time them in conjunction with IFIP business meetings (GA, Council, TC and WG annual meetings) or conferences in the respective country. For example, following the recent GA meetings in Malaysia several GA representatives continued as lecturers at the conference on Information and Communication Technology for the next Millennium, jointly organized with IFIP.

IFIP's Silver Bullet in Fostering International Knowledge Transfer

Peter Bollerslev
IFIP President

Plamen Nedkov
IFIP Executive Director

The International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) came into existence as a consequence of the first International Conference on Information Processing (ICIP), organized under the auspices of UNESCO in June 1959 in Paris. The great international interest in ICIP and in the potential of information processing was clearly demonstrated by the number of ICIP attendees – 1800 participants from 38 countries and 13 international organizations. IFIP was born as a vision for the future; the IT developments during the last 40 years confirm that IFIP's Founding Fathers were visionaries in setting the foundations for an international professional organization to provide a forum for the information age. By 1 January 1960 thirteen national professional societies had formally agreed to the proposed statutes and thus IFIP legally came into existence. IFIP was born as a society of national societies and this was reflected in its original name – International Federation for Information Processing Societies (IFIPS). IFIP came to give IT professionals from all continents a chance to intermix, to make new acquaintances and to discuss professional interests and concerns. IFIP's role and function as a forum providing a meeting place for IT professionals continues to be its most valuable asset. IFIP's statutes provided that it should not have individual members so as not to compete with national professional societies and that each national society should have one vote.

One of the first positive impacts was that IFIP helped promote the establishment of professional technical societies in the Scandinavian countries, the Netherlands, Japan and Italy and this process also contributed to the establishment of computer societies in other countries around the World.

As we approach IFIP's 40th birthday, the Federation embraces and gives synergism to a wide network of 45 full members, 3 corresponding members, 1 associated member and 11 international organizations which between them represent over 1 million IT professionals and practitioners from academia and industry in all world regions.

There is abundant information to analyze and evaluate, both quantitatively and qualitatively, IFIP's place and role in the transfer of IT related knowledge.

IFIP's technical operations are organizationally structured in 12 technical committees with over 75 working groups, as follows:

<p>TC 1 FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE</p> <p>WG 1.1 Continuous Algorithms and Complexity</p> <p>WG 1.2 Descriptive Complexity</p> <p>WG 1.3 Foundations of Systems Specifications</p> <p>WG 1.4 Computational Learning Theory</p> <p>WG 1.5 Cellular Automata and Machines</p> <p>WG 1.6 Term Rewriting</p> <p>TC 2 SOFTWARE THEORY AND PRACTICE</p> <p>WG 2.1 Algorithmic Languages and Calculi</p> <p>WG 2.2 Formal Description of Programming Concepts</p> <p>WG 2.3 Programming Methodology</p> <p>WG 2.4 System Implementation Languages</p> <p>WG 2.5 Numerical Software</p> <p>WG 2.6 Database</p> <p>WG 2.7 User Interface Engineering (WG 13.4)</p> <p>WG 2.8 Functional Programming</p> <p>WG 2.9 Software Requirements Engineering</p> <p>TC 3 EDUCATION</p> <p>WG 3.1 Informatics Education at the Secondary Education Level</p> <p>WG 3.2 Informatics Education at the University Level</p> <p>WG 3.3 Research on Education Applications of Information Technologies</p> <p>WG 3.4 IT Professional and Vocational Education in Information Technology</p> <p>WG 3.5 Information and Communication Technologies in Elementary Education</p> <p>WG 3.6 Distance Learning</p> <p>WG 3.7 Information Technology in Education Management</p> <p>TC 5 COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>WG 5.2 Computer-Aided Design</p> <p>WG 5.3 Computer-Aided Manufacturing</p> <p>WG 5.4 Industrial Software Quality and Certification</p> <p>WG 5.6 Maritime Industries</p> <p>WG 5.7 Integrated Production Management</p> <p>WG 5.10 Computer Graphics & Virtual Worlds</p> <p>WG 5.11 Computers and Environment</p> <p>WG 5.12 Architectures for Enterprise Integration</p> <p>TC 6 COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS</p> <p>WG 6.1 Architecture and Protocols for Computer Networks</p> <p>WG 6.2 Broadband Communications</p> <p>WG 6.3 Performance of Communication Systems</p> <p>WG 6.4 High Performance Networks</p> <p>WG 6.6 Network Management for Communication Networks</p> <p>WG 6.7 Intelligent Networks</p> <p>WG 6.8 Wireless Communications</p> <p>WG 6.10 Photonic Networking</p> <p>TC 7 SYSTEM MODELLING AND OPTIMIZATION</p> <p>WG 7.1 Modelling and Simulation</p> <p>WG 7.2 Computational Techniques in Distributed Systems</p> <p>WG 7.3 Computer Systems Modelling</p> <p>WG 7.4 Discrete Optimization</p> <p>WG 7.5 Reliability and Optimization of Structural Systems</p> <p>WG 7.6 Optimization-Based Computer-Aided Modelling and Design</p> <p>WG 7.7 Stochastic Optimization</p>	<p>TC 8 INFORMATION SYSTEMS</p> <p>WG 8.1 Design and Evaluation of Information System</p> <p>WG 8.2 The Interaction of Information Systems and the Organization</p> <p>WG 8.3 Decision Support Systems</p> <p>WG 8.4 Office Information Systems</p> <p>WG 8.5 Information Systems in Public Administration</p> <p>WG 8.6 Transfer and Diffusion of Information Technology</p> <p>WG 8.7 Informatics in International Business Enterprises</p> <p>TC 9 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMPUTERS AND SOCIETY</p> <p>WG 9.1 Computers and Work</p> <p>WG 9.2 Social Accountability</p> <p>WG 9.3 Home Oriented Informatics and Telematics</p> <p>WG 9.4 Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries</p> <p>WG 9.5 Social Implications of Interactive Media and Virtual Worlds</p> <p>WG 9.6 Information Technology Misuse and the Law</p> <p>WG 9.7 History of Computing</p> <p>TC10 COMPUTER SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>WG 10.1 Computer- Aided Systems Theory</p> <p>WG 10.3 Concurrent Systems</p> <p>WG 10.4 Dependable Computing and Fault Tolerance</p> <p>WG 10.5 Design and Engineering of Electronic Systems</p> <p>WG 10.6 Neural Computer Systems</p> <p>WG 10.7 Microsystems</p> <p>TC 11 SECURITY AND PROTECTION IN INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEMS</p> <p>WG 11.1 Information Security Management</p> <p>WG 11.2 Small System Security</p> <p>WG 11.3 Database Security</p> <p>WG 11.4 Network Security</p> <p>WG 11.5 Systems Integrity and Control</p> <p>WG 11.8 Information Security Education</p> <p>TC12 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE</p> <p>WG 12.2 Machine Learning</p> <p>WG 12.5 Knowledge-Oriented Development of Applications</p> <p>WG 12.6 Intelligent Information Management</p> <p>TC13 HUMAN-COMPUTER INTERACTION</p> <p>WG 13.1 Education in HCI and HCI Curricula</p> <p>WG 13.2 Methodology for User-Centered System Design</p> <p>WG 13.3 Human-Computer Interaction and People with Special Needs</p> <p>WG 13.4 (joint with WG 2.7)</p> <p>WG 13.5 Human Error, Safety and System Development</p>
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These bodies have an active membership of c.a. 2,700 individuals, which further liaison and disseminate the IFIP experience to their respective national associations and to other international organizations.

IFIP's mainstream activities are international events and publications.

Events

Annually, the Federation is involved in the organization of an average of 65 - 70 international events - workshops, seminars, working and open conferences, world conferences and congresses. In roughly 60% of these IFIP assumes full or main responsibility for the program design, implementation and peer review of the scientific content. In addition, IFIP organizes tutorials, lectureship programs and seminars specially designed to assist and to promote IT in the South. There are cooperative arrangements with some IFIP members in South Asia and in Latin America whereby IFIP provides lecturers and covers their international travel expenses while the respective societies take care of the local subsistence and arrangements.

Many conferences with the IFIP brand are well established and identified worldwide. Some are organized in series and have accumulated a long tradition and quality experience. As an illustration we can refer to the following series:

- IFIP World Conference on Computers in Education (WCCE): the 7th WCCE Conference is scheduled to take place from 29 July to 3 August 2001 in Copenhagen, Denmark
- IFIP Conference on Advances in Production Management Systems (APMS): the 7th APMS Conference was just held in Berlin and the 8th is scheduled for August 2002 in Maastricht, the Netherlands
- AFRICOM and SEACOM conference series: designed to promote cooperation in the field of Communication Systems in Africa and South East Asia. The 5th AFRICOM edition was held in October 1998 in Tunisia under the conference theme "Internet and Global Networking".
- IFIP Conference on System Modelling and Optimization: the 19th Conference was held in July 1999 in the UK and the 20th in the series is scheduled for July 2001 in Germany
- IFIP Conference on Women, Work and Computerization: the 7th Conference will take place in Vancouver, Canada in June 2000
- IFIP Symposium on Integrated Circuits and System Design: the 12th conference edition was held in July 1999 in Brazil
- IFIP Conferences on Information Security: the 14th IFIP Conference on Information Security will convene in August 2000 in Beijing, China under the umbrella of the IFIP Congress
- IFIP Human-Computer Interaction Conferences (INTERACT); the 7th INTERACT conference was held in August 1999 in the UK and the 8th conference edition will be in Tokyo, Japan in the summer of 2001

The crown of the IFIP conference program is the IFIP World Computer Congress, which is held biannually. Participation in the IFIP Congress has varied greatly with a recorded peak of 5,000

attendees and 82 exhibitors. In the most recent history the average congress participation varies between 1K and 1.5K. The nature of the IFIP Congress has changed over the years – currently it is an umbrella organization of several independent conferences each dealing with a specialized subject. The 16th IFIP Congress [<http://www.wcc2000.org>] will be held from 21 to 25 August 2000 in Beijing China and the lieu of the 17th Congress will be Montreal, Canada. These two congresses are targeted to exceed a participation of 2,000 attendees.

Publications

IFIP has maintained arrangements for publishing its conference proceedings and authored books with leading international publishers such as Elsevier/North Holland, Springer-Verlag and Chapman & Hall. Currently, our principal publisher is Kluwer Academic Publishers. Our publication arrangements envisage special discounts to all members of our member societies in order to promote wider dissemination of the IFIP literature. It is worth noting that a significant part of IFIP's books are sold to libraries which in itself is a sign that the outreach exceeds that of the actual copies sold. The IFIP publishing program includes an average of 35 volumes of conference proceedings per year with approximately 15,000 pages of valuable scientific information. Papers undergo a stringent peer review process and it is expected that the published information is on the leading edge. IFIP is further associated with the publication of several journals such as "Education and Information Technologies", "Computers & Security" and other.

Some IFIP books are translated into other languages. There are also cases of special arrangements with our Members from developing countries; for certain selected papers IFIP has provided copyright releases to have them published in our Members' publications media. Some papers and books of which IFIP holds the copyright have turned into evergreens and classics used in many university courses and continuously republished over the years. One such all-time favorite is the paper "No Silver Bullet: Essence and Accidents of Software Engineering" by Frederick P. Brooks Jr., first published in "Information Processing '86", H. Kugler (ed.), Elsevier Science Publishers B. V. (North Holland).

IFIP's future publishing program aims to have a series of IFIP titles, notably the proceedings of IFIP congresses, available in electronic form via the Internet. A project in this direction resulted in having the proceedings of the IFIP Working Conference on Information Systems: Current Issues and Future Changes, Helsinki, Finland, December 10-13, 1998 freely available at <http://www.bi.no/dep2/infomgt/wg82-86/index.htm>. Resumes of IFIP proceedings are currently available on the web and there are plans to develop an IFIP Digital Library in partnership with our member societies, publishers and other organizations.

IFIP Projects

In 1995, IFIP proceeded to establish its headquarters and secretariat in Laxenburg, near Vienna. An important assignment was to launch a Telecommunications project geared towards the development of IFIP's information and communication infrastructure, as a central piece of IFIP's management and organization. The objectives of the project were defined as enhancing the efficiency of the IFIP Secretariat's routine operations, offering extended information and communication services to IFIP's bodies, members and partner organizations, environmentally friendly and cost effective communication and manpower applications and other. [This work was and continues to be essential for IFIP as its Secretariat, the focal point of the IFIP network, is staffed with only two full time employees]. Assistance to national and international organizations in developing their communication and information systems vis-a-vis the IFIP model and experience was considered as a prime spin-off effect. A transition from predominantly "paper" towards e-mail and web/ftp communications was achieved with the introduction of list servers and the establishment of the IFIP Web pages at <http://www.ifip.or.at>. These form the IFIP information hub and gateway linked to decentralized electronic information sources of IFIP members, IFIP bodies and to important IT information sites on the Internet. Thanks to the implementation of the project the information and communication traffic increased several fold in the course of a few years. Only in 1999 compared to the previous year the traffic to the IFIP web server doubled. The intention is to provide for this tendency to continue in future which will

allow IFIP to maintain a high Internet profile and to contribute via links to the Internet exposure of its Members.

Since its foundation IFIP maintains close relations with UNESCO. There are many activities and programs in which both organizations are involved, notably in the field of Informatics and Education. UNESCO commissioned to IFIP several major projects for curriculum development. These projects have received wide proliferation internationally. For example, the project documents for "Informatics in Secondary Education" were originally prepared in English but are also available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Chinese translations. These documents are available online at <http://www.edu.ge.ch/cptic/prospective/projets/unesco/>
The most recent project is the development of an IFIP/UNESCO Modular Curriculum in Informatics at the university level, which will be web-based and will allow regular updates of the module components as an ongoing project.

IFIP is member of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, a committee of 9 representing the interests of the non-governmental professional organizations, which maintain relations with UNESCO. There are over 400 international non-governmental organizations associated with UNESCO out of which 90 are in formal relations.

In 1997, IFIP established a Writing Party to develop and propose for IFIP endorsement a project for the Harmonization of Professional Standards. All IFIP member societies were requested to contribute. The project is intended to set out an international standard for professional practice in information technology. Practitioners who meet the standards will publicly ascribe to a code of ethics. They are expected to be aware of and have access to a well-documented current body of knowledge, have satisfactory supervised experience before operating unsupervised, be familiar with current best practice and relevant proven methodologies and able to provide evidence of their maintenance of competence. The project work is ongoing and in the meantime IFIP established working contact with the International Standards Organization. A Memorandum of agreement with ISO was negotiated and this will make it possible for IFIP to submit proposals for international standards which, after review and endorsement by ISO, will appear as ISO/IFIP international standards.

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During the last few years we at IFIP have gone through phases of strategic planning, critical analyses, brainstorming and other sessions in order to look into ways how to enhance the performance of the Federation so as to meet the challenges of the next millennium. One question we were asking ourselves was what will happen if suddenly IFIP were to disappear from the international scene. There is a simple answer – IFIP would have to be reinvented! There is and there will be a need for a truly international professional body in IT to provide a framework, a forum and the media for an extended and genuine international cooperation to the benefit of national computer societies, professionals and practitioners.

In many respects IFIP is what its Members wish it to be. All IFIP Members can contribute and at the same time enjoy the benefits of the IFIP multiplier effect in the transfer of experience and knowledge which is derived from our Members and targeted to be of service to All.