

What is the significance of the much talked about "Information Society" to the structure of our society and everyday life? What are the environmental risks accompanying the emergence of the information society? What will come after the Information Society? What instruments can we use to evaluate these developments? These and other critical issues of the present stage and future development of our society were discussed at a conference entitled "Life Beyond Information Society". To address these questions, we gathered a group of eminent experts from abroad and Finland to present their views.



The conference was organised jointly by the Finland Futures Research Centre and its FUTU research project. There were about 200 participants from all over the world participating the conference.

The aim of the conference was not to reiterate official agendas on the information society, but to try to take a deeper look at the underlying structures and logic of the phenomenon, and to place it in a wider context. We had an opportunity to listen to presentations by prominent futures researchers and social scientists, as well as to hear the views of professionals actively involved in the development of information technology. One of our speakers was **Professor Manuel Castells** from the University of California, the leading sociological researcher on the emergence of the information society, whose book, "The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture", was a huge success throughout the world. Another distinguished speaker in the field of futures research to present a paper at the conference was **Doctor Karl-Heinz Steinmüller** from the Futures Research Institute in Germany. Finnish speakers included **Professor Matti Ojala**, from the Tampere University of Technology, and **Mr. Risto Linturi**, Head of Research at the Helsinki Telephone Corporation, both of whom are leading experts on information technology in Finland and abroad.

In brief, the purpose of the conference was to take an in-depth look at the social, technological and environmental key processes involved in the emergence of the information society and present well-founded scenarios on the direction these developments are taking.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Monday August 16 1999

INFORMATION SOCIETY NOW

09.30 Welcome by Rector Tapio Reponen, Turku School of Economics
Opening remarks: Dr. Markku Wilenius, Director of the FFRC and Prof. Pentti Malaska, FUTU-project

CHAIRMAN Prof. Pentti Malaska

10.00 Prof. Manuel Castells, University of California, USA: The Contours of Information Age
(Video conference)

11.00 Coffee break

11.15 FUTU-addresses: Dr. Matti Kamppinen, Dr. Pekka Jokinen and Dr. Juha Nurmela: The Dimensions of the Information Society

12.00 Dr. Eero Pantzar, Finnish Information Research Programme: Knowledge in the Information Society

12.30 Lunch break

CHAIRMAN Dr. Matti Kamppinen

- 13.30 Prof. Ted Becker & Prof. Christa Slaton, University of Auburn, USA: Democracy in the Information Age
- 14.15 Prof. Braden R. Allenby, Columbia University, USA: Industrial Ecology: Ecomodernization within the Information Society
- 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.15 Prof. Matti Ojala, Tampere University of Technology: Illusion and Prospectives of Information Society
- 16.00 Dr. Karlheinz Steinmüller, Secretariat for Futures Research (SFZ), Germany: The Information Society as Topic of Futures Studies. On the Potency of Futures Studies Methods
- 16.45 Closing of the first day
- 18.00 Reception hosted by the City of Turku
- 20.00 Conference dinner, restaurant Pikku-Pukki, archipelago of Turku

Tuesday 17 August**LIFE BEYOND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY****CHAIRMAN Dr. Pekka Jokinen**

- 09.30 Principal Researcher Risto Linturi, Helsinki Telephone Corporation: The Role of Technology on Human Future?
- 10.15 Principal Researcher, Dr. Marja-Liisa Viherä, FUTU-project, Sonera: From the Information Society to the Interaction Society
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.20 Dr. Friedrich Hinterberger, Wuppertal Institute, Germany: Conditions for Material Life Beyond Industrial Society: Scenarios for Sustainable Futures
- 12.00 Artist Osmo Rauhala: Art, Information and Evolution
- 12.40 Lunch break

CHAIRMAN Dr. Markku Wilenius

- 13.40 Dr. Peter Johnston, European Commission: Technology Private Change: Scenarios for Europe in a Global Information Society
- 14.40 Coffee break
- 15.00 Panel discussion: Life Beyond the Information Society: Chaired and introduced by Taneli Ropponen (Special Expert, Sonera), Dr. Pekka Korvenmaa (University of Art and Design, Helsinki), Dr. Tuula Heiskanen (University of Tampere), Prof. Risto Kalliola (University of Turku) and Prof. Pentti Malaska (FUTU-project).
- 17.00 Closing of the conference