

LOOKING AHEAD with the aid of technology

Note about GLH/Hungary
Takeshi Utsumi, Ph.D. Chairman, GLOSAS/USA
Fulbrighter from Japan to the United States, 1954-57

It is our great honor and privilege to have participated in the historical conference of "The Spirit of Global Understanding." Our "Global Lecture Hall (GLH)" (TM) multipoint-to-multipoint multimedia interactive videoconference on August 16, 1996, was entitled as "Spreading the Spirit of Global Understanding to Every Corner of the World." It was a highly successful and exciting event. Incidentally, it was the 10th anniversary of the GLH, too. The GLH had the largest number of participants in the past ten years. Albeit with some technical glitches, demonstrated:

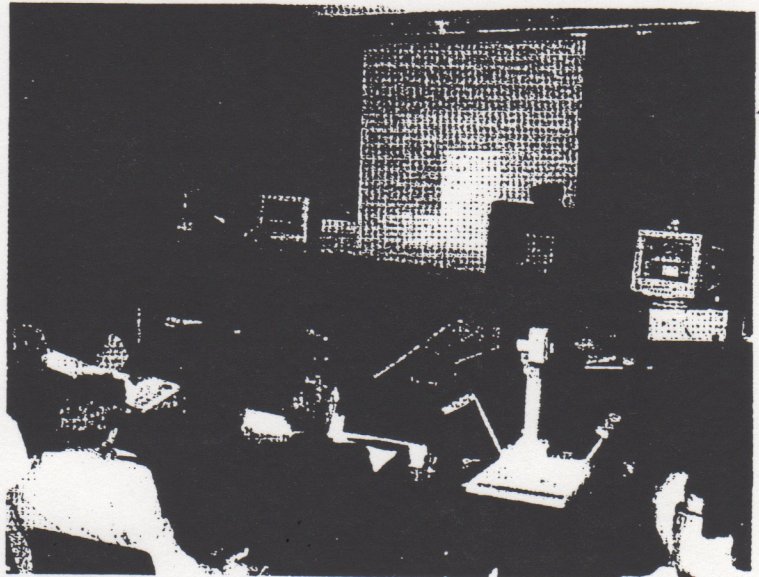
- (a) an inexpensive way of organizing a global scale videoconference;
- (b) technology and know-how transfer of organizing such a videoconference to overseas,
- (c) an indication of the future direction for the Fulbright Exchange Program;
- (d) possibility of "Education for All" from anywhere to anywhere with the use of computer-mediated multimedia system via one-way, non-interactive broadcasting satellite and two-way, interactive satellite,
- (e) a step toward to realize GLOSAS/USA's ultimate goal of establishing a Globally Collaborative Environmental Peace Gaming through a Global Neural Computer Network with quantitative simulation model for sustainable national development and the use of inexpensive videoconferencing system via Internet for normative and qualitative gaming;
- (f) setting a stage for our future collaboration with telemedicine field.

The GLH also had the great honor and privilege of having excellent greetings and discussions by distinguished delegates and panelists from the U.S. and Hungary, including Mr. George Soros. There were many ups and downs while organizing the GLH in the past three years, e.g., when our grant applications were declined by over 50 funding sources, including the Soros Foundation. I thought to quit this event many times, but Dr. Brückner's trust and continuing support kept me going.

The success of the GLH was largely thanks to the extraordinary cooperation and superb technical support of Dr. Csaba Szabó of the Technical University of Budapest, Ms. Ildiko Moran of Central European University, Dr. Collette Mazzucellie of the Budapest Institute for Graduate International and Diplomatic Studies, Dr. János Tölgyesi of ELTE University, and many other colleagues in Budapest and around the world.

We hope that this event will initiate the CEU's and Hungarian's further activity on electronic distance education, as Mr. Soros expressed via audio teleconferencing from Long Island, New York, during our GLH. We also hope that such an affordable and accessible videoconferencing as our GLH, and hence global electronic distance education will soon be available to all motivated learners around the world, especially, to disadvantaged youngsters in under-served developing countries who cannot participate in a "physical body" exchange program due to the constraints of their funds, time and working schedules.

This is to spread Senator Fulbright's true spirit, i.e., world peace keeping, to every corners of the world with the combined use of computer, telecommunication and information technologies. This will be the 21st century version of the Fulbright exchange program.



We are all eyes and ears. Is it coming together? What miracles will occur?
Get ready, get set...

See also page 13, for Dr. Csaba Szabó's article on the teleconference.