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OESTERREICHISCHE
COMPUTER GESELLSCHAFT
AUSTRIAN
COMPUTER SOCIETY

ÖGIG

Announcement of the Wolfgang von Kempelen Prize for Computing Science History

Final Date for Submissions : January 15, 2007

> „As the years went by, I became convinced that the influence of automatic computers in their capacity of tools would only be a ripple on the surface of our society, compared with the deep influence they were bound to have on our culture in their capacity of intellectual challenge to mankind that was totally without precedent."
> (Edsger W. Dijkstra, Homo cogitans, 1974)

The Austrian Society for Computing Science History (ÖGIG), the Austrian Computer Society (ÖCG) and the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) are awarding, for the first time, a prize for Computing science history in two categories, Science and Art (including journalistic intermediation). The prizes of a value of 10.000 Euros will be awarded for Computing Science History once every two years in the name of Wolfgang von Kempelen.

The prize has been named after the inventor and author Wolfgang von Kempelen (1734 – 1804). Due to his numerous inventions, such as the use of principle of magnetism for information transfer or his mechanical language generation, he is seen as one of the principle precursors in information science.

The early, pioneering years of information science were eventful. The time is now ripe for reflection. One route towards a deeper understanding of information science is that of a scientific and artistic exploration of its history. No matter how hard science may strive to achieve objectivity, if it does not include the human aspect in its considerations it can never be understood in its full breadth.

The Jury in 2007
The prize-winners will be chosen by an independent, international jury. The members of the jury are:
Klaus Amann (A), Laszlo Böszörmenyi (A), Walter Fanta (A), Gabriele Kotsis (A), Lorenz Mikoletzky (A), Otmar Moritsch (A), Peter Weibel (D), Niklaus Wirth (CH)

Awards Ceremony
The prize-giving ceremony will take place at the "Medichi 2007" Workshop, which itself is held at Klagenfurt University, Austria.

Submission procedure
The work is to be sent to the address below, together with the completed application form, a brief description of the work submitted and relevant photographic documentation, by January 15, 2006:
Alpe-Adria Universität Klagenfurt, Institut für Informationstechnologie,
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Laszlo Böszörmenyi, Wolfgang von Kempelen Prize for Computing Science History,
Universitätsstraße 65-67, 9020 Klagenfurt, Austria.
If electronically available, please send us your work also per e-mail (preferably in pdf form).

The copyright for the works submitted remains in all cases with the author, artist or creator. The organisers plan to publish a documentary report on the prize on the internet. Further details about the works submitted are therefore to be made available to the organisers as required and without charge.

Further information about this announcement can be obtained from Martina Steinbacher by e-mail under:
martina@itec.uni-klu.ac.at