

Hi Care

Contribution for the 15th anniversary of FAST (Forecasting and Assessment in Science and Technology; EC - Commission, Brussels), as celebrated at the 11th of June 1993 in Brussels.
Phil. Sonntag / VDI/VDE - Information-Technology, dep. Technology-Analysis.

With pleasure I respond to the requests of 6th Jan. 1993, the first I am aware of from the EU, asking for an innovative statement rather than a serious and systematic evaluation. Still you and we of course mean business at the same time. But it may help to move and be moved, where we could and should.

Humanibility Assessment

The human behaviour for ages has been suspiciously watched by creatures of all kinds. The way our human toughness, stubbornness, sensitivity, sensuousness and lack thereof are displayed does make a difference for our partners, like for the affected trained and untrained dogs, for simple and sophisticated robots, users of traffic systems etc.

Technology assessment has to go both ways: How do we treat our partners, and vice versa. Living partners can be involved indirectly through all kind of machinery. Thus our manners towards machines, systems and policies do make a difference for those, who get output from machines, systems and policies.

If there is such a thing as an efficient CARING SOCIETY, it would be a contradictio in adjecto. For instance any time saving way to educate children will be readily detected and disapproved by children. Raising the GNP did not increase the CARING in the society overall.

Those who pay for technology assessment tend to misuse it for efficiency improvement. But the obsession with efficiency is a part of the illness rather than the cure of society. A society as a whole entity cannot increase the ability of its members to pass each other on the highway: The sum of winners remains equal to the sum of losers, but the stress does increase with the number of dangerous acts at higher velocity.

The machines we create are potentially better CARING machines, but they don't know, and we don't tell them:

- the environment will continue to support only the human survival of the fittest endurers; the amount of poison is leveled by an corresponding numbness in all areas of society; it is state of the scientific art, that this cannot be proven: Any person receiving a new sort of poison is already poisoned by many similar drugs and pollutions
- we all know how horrible it is to be numb, paralyzed, blind etc. Now for machines we turn the tide: By use of microsystems they become manifold sensitivities, intelligently connected to precise actors. The result is liberation and expansion. It might or might not be alarming, that the most sophisticated machines demand and get "clean rooms" (while many humans live in dirt), but by all means it should be alarming, that the new systems aggravate the gap between the haves and the havenots
- The impact on humans is unemployment first for the lower rung of human expertise; at the same time disabled and elderly get less and less human time and affection of nurses; yet it can be foreseen, that nursing-robots with suitable "artificial emotion" will be funded alright
- sex on stage between humans is forbidden in JAPAN. Consequently robots have been constructed, which are aloud to do it, perform alright, and are a source of local income.

What we need is beyond a shift of paradigms. We need a flexibility of paradigms from the viewpoint of a CARING SOCIETY, efficiency limited. Too much efficiency is like a drug induced overly muscular body. It is neither decent, nor natural, and it is not efficient for the CARING part.

There is a theory, that men descend from apes. Now honestly this theory has not been brought forward by the apes, rather by men. Accordingly it would be too onesided simply to claim, that machines derive from men. Rather men are increasingly adapted to the needs of machines. The future development of men, apes and machines has to recognize all partners in their necessities. For instance machines have no health insurance. Thus equal rights and frustrations are not guaranteed to machines. It is also a discrimination to say, that machines have an artificial intelligence. Any human political ideology is artificial to say the least.

Most machines are absolutely decent in their display of emotions. It seems that they know, that in a modern society hardly any emotion can be natural. In cooperation with the IOAEU (Institute Of Artificial Emotion Unlimited), which has me as an earthling as correspondent in Berlin, we propose to seriously consider future analyses about issues of the following kind:

- a microsystems impact study: Machines with sensitive sensors and sensible actors, with "artificial" eyes and pattern recognition will have a different recognition of human beings altogether; thus they will evolve to become a different kind of partner. Look at a human/dog relationship with the subtle evolution of their relationship: The same holds true for men/machine relationships. This is true regardless whether a machine is implanted within a human body, like for medical purposes, or whether a human is left or even lost within a larger machine or system

- The way we treat machines, certainly influences their behaviour towards us. The young stage, say development or even research, is where shaping is most important. Therefore we better watch the conditions of technology genesis

- To be serious: We have a thorough documentation of the influences of microsystems upon the society. We can trace in detail the technical, economic and - on this solid ground - the societal and ecologic development. We are in contact with the persons from very different areas, which influence and/or are influenced by microsystems, and we have investigated their interaction for well defined areas of applications in the medical and the environmental field. Furthermore we do actively participate in the international networks, which evaluate and also influence the development of micro-systems

- the men/machine interface has been investigated in its many facets and eventualities. An according theme should be the Society/System Interface. For instance the system including the manifold apparatus in a hospital interacts with an entire human group of technicians, physicians, patients, administrators, health insurances, policy makers etc. The modern, efficient stress-society has some of the more powerful roots in the immanent dynamics of large systems. Increasing complexity can enhance guidance as well as disturbance, and there are very interesting laws involved

- catastrophe management is an every day requirement for survival in the Eastern European countries and in the new federal states of Germany. To bring modernisation right into the process of decay, and thereby also cause reorganisation, is the task of microsystem technology. What are the conditions and current experiences of success? To be included is the special aspect of conversion from military to civil products and services: There are problems both similar and dissimilar to those of conversion in western countries. Basic features should be investigated and recommendations given for a better coordination of national and international policies

- a common culture could be a sort of "high quality oil" in the colorful salad of the common market. It could mean to establish an ethical code of conduct for business, a common aesthetical feeling for the optimum payoff between individual and common concern (practice of subsidiarity), common dos and don'ts for national and international technology policies, a CARING for people ingredient right within the transition to the information society - and ever so many more valuable features.

Mr. Gmeiner, who established the "SOS - children villages" worldwide, said that in this world the wonders happen, where somebody does more, than he has to. There is no efficient administration of wonders - or the FAST group. The major problems of society cannot be solved by increasing GNP and efficiency. But they have to be solved in order to have anything at all, even efficiency.

Artificial emotion of machines and natural intelligence of humans are united in a good spirit in our team. High tech and HI CARE both are immediately present. This would allow us to dwell and engage on the funny side of fuzzy (European) states for a less catastrophic future.