International conference

Internet and Socio-Cultural Transformations in Information Society

September 8–12, 2013, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russian Federation

Introduction

Information and communication technologies, or ICTs, have become an inalienable part of contemporary life, which would be impossible if they were to disappear, today or tomorrow. The Internet and other ICTs offer tremendous benefits to those who have access to them and use them efficiently in everyday life and on the job. The virtual setting is a new reality with an impact on the real world, intermingling with it and borrowing both its virtues and vices, which it fancifully transforms and multiplies.

Information society provides instantaneous and potentially all-embracing communication, which promotes, intensifies and paces up global, regional, national and local processes as the volume of accessible information grows breathtakingly.

ICTs change beyond recognition every aspect of communication – its methods, amount, speed, scope, arrangement, quality, functions, content, goals and significance, whether between persons or institutions, within a nation or between nations.

The sphere of publicly accessible information has not only expanded but undergone a change of quality. It was up to professionals, and none else, to form and control it in the pre-digital era. Backed by special education, they were aware of their great responsibility. Now, anyone who feels like it can actively contribute to this sphere, no matter whether they have brains and education or none, what goals they pose, and whether they are aware of assumed responsibility.

The Internet and other ICTs are powerful tools of indoctrination used to rehash the world, and make governments come and go. Twitter and Facebook revolutions show what an effect social networking sites may have in triggering off public unrest.

Privacy is shrinking as surveillance devices get more and more sophisticated and communication monitoring makes progress. Human behavior in social networks and elsewhere in cyberspace is also to blame.

The direct and indirect impact of the Internet and other ICTs changes the content and arrangement of social relations. Cultural changes cause socio-cultural transformations that modify:

– the correlation of roles and the nature of contacts between social institutions in every sphere of life – economic, social, political and cultural; and

– the forms of social stratification, i.e. the correlation of social classes, strata and communities in terms of numerical strength, social stances and cultural competence.

The conference *Internet and Socio-Cultural Transformations in Information Society* aims to analyze the dynamics, character, direction, scope, driving forces, content and results of socio-cultural changes under the impact of the Internet and other ICTs as they are spreading worldwide.

The conference will regard the use, development and growing influence of ICTs on socio-cultural processes in their entirety, in an all-round way and on an interdisciplinary basis. It will be attended by theoreticians and practical experts on information and communication, and major researchers – philosophers, sociologists, cultural anthropologists, historians and political scientists. Political and community activists, executives, as well as creative writers, journalists and representatives of businesses will also take an active part.

The conference will attempt to understand the humanitarian challenges of the information society as a contribution of the UNESCO Information for All Programme and of Russia to the UNESCO mission as generator of ideas, platform for information exchanges, and promoter of international cooperation in the implementation of the decisions of the World Summit on the Information Society.

From 2010 to this day, during its chairmanship in IFAP, Russia has initiated and arranged a series of major international conferences on the preservation of digital information, media and information literacy, the preservation of languages and their development in cyberspace, and other topical themes.

This conference – a summing-up event, in a sense – crowns the second term of Russia's chairmanship in IFAP.

Agenda

- *Context: a reality born by ICTs*
  - Internet as a socio-cultural phenomenon
  - socio-cultural problems in the information society
  - information and memory institutions in the information society

- *Today: current socio-cultural transformations*
  - contemporary socio-cultural processes: transformation or crisis?
  - the changes of social institutionalisation
  - the formal modification of social stratification
  - issues of interdisciplinary studies of social transformations

- *What next? On the road to knowledge societies*
  - ethical aspects of communication in information society
  - media and information literacy and cultural competence as developmental prerequisites of socio-cultural entities
  - the creation and preservation of, and access to socially important information: new paradigms
  - socio-cultural transformations and the problems of preserving multilingualism

Conference Convenors

– Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation

– Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation

– Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO

– Government of the Sakhalin Region

– UNESCO and UNESCO Information for All Programme

– Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme

– Interregional Library Cooperation Centre

Participants

The conference will gather about 120 participants:

– The leaders, experts and other representatives of the topmost international governmental and nongovernmental organizations

– Leading researchers – philosophers, sociologists, cultural historians, anthropologists, political scientists, and experts on ICTs, information and the media

– International experts on the policy of building knowledge societies

– Executives and experts of public institutions and governing bodies of culture, education, research, communication and information

– Media managers and functionaries

Invitations were sent to all National Commissions for UNESCO and Permanent Delegations to UNESCO.

Working Languages

English and Russian (simultaneous interpretation provided).

Conference Venue

Santa Resort Hotel – a modern four-star hotel located in picturesque valley surrounded by woodland hills. It is about 5 minutes drive away from the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk business center.

For more information, please visit http://www.santahotel.ru/eng/doc/10/.

Terms of Participation

In order to participate in the event, applicants should fill in the Application Form (see below) and send it to the Organising Committee by e-mail ifap@ifapcom.ru or by fax +7 499 267 3334 no later than **01 April 2013**.

Applicants approved by the Organizing Committee will be sent a personal invitation and any further information required.

No registration fee is charged.

For participants having their registration for the conference confirmed by an official letter by the Organizing Committee, the following costs are covered:

– Moscow – Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk return flight (economy class);

– Transfers in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk;

- Accommodation in a four-star hotel in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk from 08 September to 12 September, 2013 (four nights);
- Meals (welcome reception, lunches, dinners, coffee-breaks);
- Cultural programme;
- Information and analytical materials.

Communications and Papers

Participants willing to make a presentation (duration: max. 20 minutes) should submit an abstract (up to 3600 characters) in .doc or .rtf format to the Conference Organising Committee before **01 May 2013**, and the full text of the communication (not more than 18,000 characters) before **01 June 2013**.

All abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Programme Committee. Conference Proceedings are planned for publication in printed and digital form in Russian and in English.

Visa Support

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation will assist the participants in obtaining visas for entering the Russian Federation. Along with a personal invitation, selected participants will receive a special visa application form to be filled in and sent to the Organising Committee before **01 July 2013**.

Preliminary Programme

7 September (Saturday)				
	Arrival of participants in Moscow.			
18:05	Departure of participants to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (Sheremetievo International Airport)			
8 September (Sunday)				
09:05	Arrival of participants in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Transfers to the Santa Resort Hotel. Free time			
13:00	Lunch Cultural programme			
19:00	Dinner			
9 September (Monday)				
08:00–9:30	Breakfast			
10:00–10:45	**Conference opening ceremony**			
	Welcoming speeches			
10:45–11:45	**Plenary session**			
	Keynote addresses			
11:45–12:15	Coffee break			
12:15–13:30	**Plenary session (cont.)**			
	Moderated panel debate with keynote speakers and audience			
13:30–15:00	Lunch			
15:00–17:00	**Parallel sessions**			Parallel sessions
	Section 1 (title to be specified)	**Section 2 (title to be specified)**	**Section 3 (title to be specified)**	
	• Paper presentations • Moderated panel discussion with paper presenters and audience	• Paper presentations • Moderated panel discussion with paper presenters and audience	• Paper presentations • Moderated panel discussion with paper presenters and audience	
17:30–20:00	Concert Reception by the Governor of the Sakhalin Region			
10 September (Tuesday)				
08:00–9:15	Breakfast			
09:30–11:15	**Plenary session**			
	Paper presentations			
11:15–11:45	Coffee break			
11:45–13:30	**Parallel sessions**			Parallel sessions
	Section 1 (title to be specified)	**Section 2 (title to be specified)**	**Section 3 (title to be specified)**	
	• Paper presentations • Moderated panel discussion with paper presenters and audience	• Paper presentations • Moderated panel discussion with paper presenters and audience	• Paper presentations • Moderated panel discussion with paper presenters and audience	
13:30–15:00	Lunch			
15:00–20:00	Cultural programme. Dinner			

11 September (Wednesday)				
08:00–9:15	Breakfast			
09:30–11:30	**Parallel sessions**			Parallel sessions
	Section 1 (title to be specified)	**Section 2 (title to be specified)**	**Section 3 (title to be specified)**	
	• Paper presentations • Moderated panel discussion with paper presenters and audience	• Paper presentations • Moderated panel discussion with paper presenters and audience	• Paper presentations • Moderated panel discussion with paper presenters and audience	
11:30–12:00	Coffee break			
12:00–13:30	**Plenary session**			
	Paper presentations			
13:30–15:00	Lunch			
15:00–18:00	**Plenary session (cont.)**			
	Paper presentations Reports by moderators from plenary and sessions Discussion and endorsement of the conference final document			
18:00–18:30	**Conference closing**			
19:00–20:00	Dinner			
20:30–21:30	Concert			
12 September (Thursday)				
11:50	Departure of participants from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk			
13:45	Arrival in Moscow. Transfers to other Moscow airports			

Contacts

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Project Coordinator, Interregional Library Cooperation Centre

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UNESCO Information for All Programme

Information for All Programme (IFAP) was established as a flagship intergovernmental UNESCO programme for the purpose of assisting Member States in formulating and implementing balanced national policies of building an inclusive information society / knowledge societies. The Programme's Strategic Plan sets five priority action lines: information for development, information literacy, information accessibility, information preservation, and information ethics.

http://www.unesco.org/webworld/ifap

Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme

Established in 2000, the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme became the first national committee of IFAP. Representatives of governmental authorities; institutions of education, science, culture and communications; public associations and commercial companies are among the Committee members. The Committee provides assistance in implementing the Programme ideas, tasks, concepts and priority lines of actions at both national and international levels. It participates in the advancement of policies and legislation in the fields of culture, education, communications and information for the purpose of building inclusive information society / knowledge societies. It contributes to the development of analytic and practical guidelines, to the establishment of the best practice centres and to the improvement of the activities of institutions within its competence.

www.ifapcom.ru

Interregional Library Cooperation Centre

Interregional Library Cooperation Centre (ILCC) is a working body of the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme. In addition to participating in the IFAP implementation, ILCC participates in (a) drafting and implementing in Russia the national library policy and programmes aimed to preserve library collections; (b) developing the All-Russian public centres of legal and other socially meaningful information; (c) reading promotion; (d) advancing professional library training and (e) developing multilingualism in cyberspace. On a regular basis, ILCC drafts, publishes and disseminates information and methodological materials on the development of librarianship, culture and information policy.

www.mcbs.ru

International Conference

Internet and Socio-Cultural Transformations in Information Society

September 8–12, 2013, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russian Federation

Applications should be sent **not later than 1 April, 2013**

to ifap@ifapcom.ru or by fax to: +7 499 267 3334

Application Form[1]

Family Name *	
First Name and Middle Name/Patronymic *	
Country *	
City, region (state, land, province, etc.)*	
Employer *	
Position *	
E-mail *	
Contact telephone *	
Fax	
Participation form *	☐ with a communication ☐ without a communication Communication title: Communication subject:
Date and time of arrival in Moscow *	
Date and time of departure from Moscow *	
Comments:	

[1]All fields marked with * are mandatory