

C&C User Forum Human Life Innovation Symposium

How will Information Systems Converge with Humans and Society?



Takemitsu Kunio,
Associate Senior Vice President and
Executive General Manager of
Central Research Laboratories, NEC Corporation

The “C&C User Forum & iEXPO 2008” was held from November 11th to the 13th at the Tokyo International Forum. On the 11th, the Human Life Innovation Symposium based on the theme “How will Information Systems Converge with Humans and Society?” was convened, starting with an address by Mr. Takemitsu Kunio, Associate Senior Vice President and Executive General Manager of Central Research Laboratories, NEC Corporation. This was followed by keynote lectures by Dr. Hirotada Ohashi, Professor, Department of Systems Innovation, the University of Tokyo, and Dr. Ikuyo Kaneko, Dean & Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University, and then a panel discussion by the three aforementioned persons. (Titles and honorifics omitted in the following text.)

[Opening Remarks] NEC’s Approach to the Convergence of the Real and Cyber Worlds

First I would like to start off by explaining the aim of this symposium. The subject of this symposium is “Human Life Innovation,” which, in other words, can be summed up as “how we should create a more flourishing society.” It is said that the needs of a flourishing society are two-fold, first the continuous needs of those things that people would suffer without, and the needs for improving, by wanting more and better things. Today’s society is actually the result of the real-world society’s convergence with the society of cyberspace. We at NEC have made it our corporate philosophy to contribute to the creation of a more flourishing society through our C&C technology. C&C technology has progressed along two major pillars, namely the large-scale systemization of computing and the digitization of communication. But what about the future? Let’s think about how the real and cyber worlds will interact and integrate with each other.

In the past, the values generated by our information-driven society had been measured through criteria such as energy saving, improved efficiency and cost reduction. Various new services were born. And through time, they moved forward to offer a higher degree of value through an increasingly broader field. During this symposium, I would like to discuss the future possibilities of this situation. For instance, although the scope of services was initially limited to the public and corporate sectors, it looks like the trend is gradually leading towards personal services. Perhaps this is happening because the real and cyber worlds are becoming increasingly integrated, and personal and societal systems are becoming more closely intertwined.

As we enter the decade of 2010 through 2020, systems should be getting increasingly massive and complex. So how should they be designed? Also, how the convergence of the real and cyber worlds will impact our daily lives is a subject of particular interest to all of us. After hearing from professors Ohashi and Kaneko, we will be having a panel discussion to further debate this issue in depth, so please stay and enjoy the remainder of the program.

* This report is the NEC Technical Journal Editorial Office’s compilation of parts of the opening speech by Mr. Takemitsu Kunio, Associate Senior Vice President and Executive General Manager of Central Research Laboratories, NEC Corporation. The speech was given at the C&C User Forum & iEXPO 2008 on November 11, 2008.