Unprecedented problems call for unprecedented solutions. Today, our world is economically, socially and politically vulnerable and self-destructive. To ensure a future that is more secure, prosperous and sustainable, we need to design new ways of thinking, governing and living. On November 22-24, 2018, an interactive roundtable discussion was organized by WAAS and World University Consortium to explore fundamental philosophical and normative ideas concerning the challenges and opportunities for Global Governance. The meeting was conducted in collaboration with Dag Hammarskjöld University College of International Relations and Diplomacy (Croatia), Inter-University Centre (Croatia), The Mother’s Service Society (India) and the Person-Centered Approach Institute (Italy).

This highly interactive roundtable of 35 Fellows and guest participants examined the present challenges to global governance from the perspectives of politics, economy, society, culture, ecology and human well-being and identified essential measures needed to develop a more effective, inclusive system of global governance based on democracy and human rights.

Zlatko Lagumdžija, former Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, discussed the need for effective national and global leadership to facilitate global governance and resolve the major challenges facing humanity. Emil Constantinescu, former President of Romania, discussed the failure of democracy in former dictatorships and the need for a cultural model of global governance that recognizes and honors cultural differences. Simultaneous Policy, a global governance mechanism that enables citizens from different countries to vote together on common interests, was presented by John Bunzl.

Special emphasis was placed on the importance of formulating coherent strategies and pathways that can reconcile the apparent contradictions between economy and ecology, growth and equity, technological advance and employment security, cultural diversity and social integration. Presently, the world lacks even a vision of how these polarities can be transformed into complementary forces.

The role of leadership is to develop and project compelling ideas with the power to unite human effort and release the energy to translate vision into effective action. The formulation and unanimous adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals mark an unprecedented step in the formulation of such a vision. Translation of the vision into effective action to achieve the goals will require unparalleled efforts to transcend the limitations of disciplinary silos, self-contained social theories, fragmented strategies and piecemeal policies. It will require an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach that brings together academia, policymakers, business and civil society to close the institutional gaps that presently separate and divorce ideas from effective action.

– Garry Jacobs
Chief Executive Officer, World Academy of Art & Science
Developmental needs have primarily been financed through private sector financing, conventional public sector funding and philanthropic commitment. These sources are not sufficient in scale and speed to meet the pressing finance needs. The world community is too busy repairing, stabilizing, and refunding the system to maintain the stability of the existing system. The introduction of a parallel electronic currency specifically designed to finance global commons, and a human-centered economy as propounded by WAAS would provide the necessary resources to achieve the UN SDGs while stabilizing the existing monetary system.

The development of cryptocurrencies based on blockchain distributed ledger technologies has prompted leading central banks around the world to study the potential application of this approach to directly inject purchasing power without dependence on the banking system. Proposals are now being studied by an expert group of the World Academy on how this approach can be utilized to finance the huge multi-trillion dollar annual investment requirements for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with special emphasis on investments in human resources and environmental protection. A report of the expert group will be published in Fall 2019.

– Stefan Brunnhuber
Endowed Professor, University of Applied Sciences, Germany; WAAS Trustee

Whole System Thinking

The WAAS Roundtable highlighted the fact that global cooperation and governance are essential to address global challenges related to environmental protection, global security, human rights protection, and regulation of technology and financial markets. No single country can resolve any of them on its own. Rudimentary strands of global governance play an indispensable role, including international treaties, global standards, international organizations, and the World Wide Web.

A historical perspective shows the remarkable progress humanity has made since 1945 in laying the foundations for more effective international cooperation. Military War has largely been replaced by diplomacy and economic cooperation. The spread of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, economic development, education and healthcare all reflect the progress of humanity. But major challenges remain. The rapid decline of environmental and social conditions in many regions, neoliberal policies that produce financial inequality, increased speculation in unregulated international financial markets, and the disillusionment among youth due to lack of effective leadership are a result of prevailing social, economic and political systems which are in turn, a result of reductionistic thinking. However, humanity has tremendous talent, resources and the capacity to change our flawed systems including governance.

The Roundtable discussed the need for higher-level, whole system thinking and greater global cooperation to resolve our challenges. Many possible solutions were put forth, such as:

• regulating global financial markets and multinational corporations
• System Change Investing—a responsible investing approach that rates companies on system change performance
• refocusing economic and political systems on maximizing social well-being instead of economic growth
• strengthening democracy at the national level
• replacing competitive national security strategies to cooperative arrangements, thereby reducing military spending
• uniting and empowering citizens to work together for their common interests
• establishing a mechanism to override Security Council vetoes.

– Frank Dixon
Sustainability & System Change Consultant, USA; WAAS Associate Fellow

At Dubrovnik, the WAAS Board of Trustees honored President Heitor Gurgulino de Souza with a special certificate of appreciation for his outstanding service to the Academy and the world.
Belt and Road Initiative as an Element of Global Governance

Belt and Road Initiative is a striking example of an innovative initiative for economic cooperation among the countries along the old continental and maritime trade routes between East Asia and Europe. Its aim is to forge intergovernmental collaboration for funding, building and operating large infrastructures to facilitate faster transport of goods across state borders, to strengthen national and regional economies by providing energy, industry, transport and urban facilities, and to stimulate scientific, technological, cultural and educational exchange, and protect cultural heritage.

The initiative aims to generate positive effects on political relations between the participating states while preserving their economic and political sovereignty.

— Vesna Vučinić
Professor, University of Belgrade, Serbia; WAAS Fellow

Role of Academia and Civil Society

Developing human capital and improving critical skills and capacities for self-knowledge are among the vital areas in which academia has a key role to play in global social evolution. In order for higher education and research to play a vital part in global governance, academia must become a place where assumptions and worldviews are questioned, goals and paradigms are explored and transcended, inter- and trans-disciplinarity are embraced, and transformative learning takes place. The role of the academy is primarily linked to a notion of civic university in which society can envision just, ecologically sustainable desired futures, learning is intrinsic and whole-system change is possible.

Academia has the potential to change the course of the evolution of mankind and must play a key role in developing solutions for 21st century problems. This will require greater global collaboration, open access to information and the embracing of diverse, cross-cultural and cross-sectoral perspectives. To do so, it needs to overcome internal resistance to change and the barriers insulating it from embodying the aspirations and consciousness of civil society. It must be transformed into a learning organization that responds dynamically to the needs of society. There is also an urgent need for regulation of technology, and academia has the responsibility of maintaining a clear ethical oversight on its research. Science must be linked and directed to benefit society. It must also be linked to policy. New talent is urgently needed to keep pace with changes in industrialisation. Greater openness and mobility are required to ensure that global talent is allowed to meet demand.

The ultimate objective of Education should be to develop independent thinking and imagination and focus on well-being and the integration of body, mind and spirit. The rising prominence of transdisciplinarity and co-creation of knowledge in research is a positive sign of how academia is trying to respond to some of the challenges it faces. The attempt to integrate UN SDGs into universities is also a step in this direction.

— Marcel Van de Voorde, Professor, University of Technology Delft, Netherlands; WAAS Fellow & Olivia Bina, Principal Researcher, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon

A. Zucconi  T. Reuter  R. Fiorini  M. Đurović  Z. Bochniarz

B. Akhmetkaliyeva  M. Vitiello  R. Vilović

Belt & Road Initiative as an Element of Global Governance

A. Zucconi  T. Reuter  R. Fiorini  M. Đurović  Z. Bochniarz
In order to achieve a transition from competing nation-states to a cooperative global society, three phenomena need to be taken into account.

• No nation can move first to solve global problems such as climate change or wealth inequality because the necessary increases in taxes and regulations would cause its national economy to become uncompetitive, causing business and jobs to move elsewhere.

• As a political consequence, every nation needs to keep its national economy attractive to capital markets and inward investors force governments to adopt a narrow band of neoliberal policies.

• Nations that are not democratic are unlikely to consent to their citizens participating in global elections when they do not enjoy the same right at the national level.

Viable pathways are more likely to emerge from civil society rather than from nation-states, but these must be structured in a way capable of having strong influence over nation-states. A transnational citizens’ campaign that offers a possible pathway to achieving global governance is the Simultaneous Policy (Simpol) campaign. Democracy Without Borders is another campaign that offers interesting alternatives.

– John Bunzl
Businessman; Writer; Founder, Simultaneous Policy (Simpol) Campaign

Ideal global governance is a cooperative leadership that marshals collective energies of countries and directs them to address global challenges.

It should be more democratic than authoritarian, more openly political than bureaucratic, more integrated than specialized, and operate through soft, rather than hard power. We need new ways of thinking and decision making in order to combine human welfare and happiness with materialistic well-being in policy making at the global level.

– Elif Çepni
Rector, Cyprus Health & Social Sciences University; WAAS Associate Fellow
Our consciousness determines the values and perspectives through which we view the world. Widening the perception and raising the values reveal opportunities where once we perceived only limitations. New perspectives can radically accelerate progress toward a new paradigm for human development.

The Future of Capital Summit is being organized by the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the World Academy of Art & Science. It will bring together an extraordinary and selected blend of global leaders carefully chosen for their expertise and demonstrated actions, including investment and financial professionals, political leaders and policy-makers, businessmen and women, researchers, thought-leaders, social entrepreneurs, activists, community leaders and philanthropists. The format of the event is interactive, co-creative, and focused on action.

Our goal is to mobilize the global business community to put conscious capital into action for the common good. Our strategy is to demonstrate that organizations which adopt a conscious capital business model can achieve their business objectives in a manner that can exceed their organizational goals and support achievement of the SDGs—the two accomplishments being related by a causal link.

Collectively, we will ask and address the following questions:

- What are the values that drive our investments?
- What are the implicit and explicit values underpinning the current economic and business model?
- What are the emerging value drivers in the economy for the future?

The Future of Capital Summit will convene selected global leaders to address a central question: How do we develop more conscious capital? The summit is designed to showcase, inspire, co-create, and encourage a commitment to action to resolve major challenges facing humanity.

- What are the perceptual frames that define our vision of social opportunities?
- What does it mean to be a conscious and conscientious investor?
- How can we better realign social systems to promote real wealth creation and sustainable human development?
- How can the creative power of money be multiplied and leveraged to achieve the SDGs and promote the well-being of all humanity?
- What is the true basis for wealth creation?

Some of the themes will include:

- The Power of Conscious Business
- Conscious Investing for Positive Impact
- System Change for a Truly Sustainable Future
- Achieving the Global Sustainable Development Goals
- Collaborating for the Common Good
- Achieving Positive Change Through Alternative Currencies
- Conscious Management for Sustained Corporate Success
We live in an increasingly globalized world, yet our instruments of governance are antiquated and largely ineffective. The rapid evolution of society continues to outpace the development of institutions to guide, monitor and manage the increasing range and magnitude of the opportunities and challenges that arise. This growing gap between the needs of humanity and its prevailing system of institutions retards our collective progress. WAAS and WUC partnered with The Millennium Project to conduct a Roundtable on Governance & Law: Challenges and Opportunities at the Headquarters of the World Bank in Washington DC on November 5-6, 2018 to explore these issues in global governance and promote sustainable development based on the UN SDGs. The meeting coincided with a major international conference at World Bank on Law and Governance.

WAAS CEO Garry Jacobs, WAAS Associate Fellow Craig Hammer and Director of The Millennium Project co-chaired the meeting and framed critical issues for discussion regarding ways to improve the functioning of democratic institutions, increase the effective distribution of power in society, increase social effectiveness in meeting human needs, developing the leadership required for good governance, enlightened exercise of democratic rights by citizens, and development of an integrated theory of social self-governance.

The roundtable emphasized the effective role of law, governance and public participation for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The presentations and discussions explored elements key to founding a new paradigm for world governance, a major area of focus being the role of ‘people’ and participatory development and governance.

Key insights from the meeting warrant systematic examination in future:

Ideas have the power to change the world and all change begins with a change in thinking.

The greater the distribution of all forms of social power to the population at large, the greater the overall power of the society for accomplishment, development and sustainability.

Knowledge is the most dominant power for social change, but the results of that knowledge depend on its character and quality. The implicit assumptions underlying prevailing social theory skew perspectives and institutional performance to existing problems.

A shift is needed from mechanistic concepts of law and governance based on unity and conformity to a human-centered, value-based transdisciplinary conceptual framework that releases springs of human energy, aspiration and initiative for a broad-based social movement to accelerated global progress.

The Academy is endeavoring to apply these insights to foster a more creative, dynamic, and responsible scientific, economic and political culture which can be applied practically to accelerate the conversion of the SDG goals into concrete developmental achievements.

– Fadwa El Guindi, Retiree Professor, University of California, USA; WAAS Fellow & Rodolfo Fiorini Professor, Politecnico di Milano University, Italy; WAAS Fellow
Effective governance for the implementation of SDGs

As populism becomes more established, public confidence in institutions is key to addressing the issues of the 21st century. Three issues are fundamental in modelling public institutions:

- Preparing institutions and politicians with a view to ensuring the implementation of the sustainable development programme by 2030.
- The implementation, at all levels, of open, efficient, responsible institutions.
- Measures aimed at strengthening the institutions and giving them the necessary resources to transform societies and make them viable and resilient.

Effectiveness, Accountability and Inclusiveness are the principles of effective governance needed to achieve the SDGs. These principles offer a roadmap from which all actors in governance—administrations, associations, citizens, businesses and researchers—can draw inspiration.

– Philippe Destatte
Director General, The Destree Institute, Belgium

The Wisdom required for Global Governance

The global challenges confronting the world today cannot be managed by anything less than concerted and sustained action on a global scale. These include the prevention of nuclear war and nuclear proliferation; managing the societal consequences of revolutionary scientific breakthroughs in fields such as artificial intelligence and synthetic biology; and constraining climate change.

The consequences of failure are existential, and the time available for anticipatory action is right now. There is hope, but no guarantee, that as a civilization—and even as a species—we will succeed.

We have demonstrated the power to challenge nature, but not necessarily the wisdom to master ourselves, and, moreover, to do so by means that are democratic. Global governance requires that we pass these tests.

– Leon Fuert
Former National Security Adviser to Former US Vice-President Al Gore; Professor, George Washington University, USA

The Significance of International Institutions

The world needs stable international institutions. Systems in many countries and situations in the world today are complex or chaotic. Investments in international institutions, when infused into the global system, reduce entropy and make systems less complex. This will make them simpler to be organized and managed. Therefore investment in stable global institutions is critical to maintaining global stability: a necessary condition for promoting justice, prosperity and peace.

– Sheila R. Ronis
President, The University Group, Inc., USA

Trans-Institutional Models of Governance

We need to begin to develop a global governance system for the transition from artificial narrow intelligence to artificial general intelligence. Future governance systems should consider the Trans-Institutional Model—an institution whose governing body, sources of income, and staff come from various governments, business, academia, NGOs, and UN or other intentional organizations. Tele-Nations (cyberspace connecting those overseas to the development process back home) could assist governance for development of poorer regions.

– Jerome C. Glenn
Co-founder & CEO, The Millennium Project, USA; WAAS Fellow
Following the end of the Cold War, democracy seemed to establish itself as the most acceptable and effective form of governance. Recent developments challenge this idea. A roundtable was conducted in St. Augustine on November 7-9, 2018, in collaboration with WAAS’ new partner Ethical Markets Media, founded by WAAS Fellow Hazel Henderson. It explored the foundations of democracy and the challenges it faces today, with special emphasis on recent developments in North America and Europe.

The objective of the meeting was to draw lessons from the recent rise of populism and polarization and identify ways to promote more stable, effective and equitable democratic systems of governance. Participants explored issues related to the impact of accelerated globalization, financialization and state capitalism on democracy, polarization of society and plutocracy; policies and institutional mechanisms that can safeguard democratic systems from abuse; the role of social, psychological and cultural factors in the functioning of democratic institutions; ways to regulate the impact of social media, artificial intelligence and other 4th industrial revolution technologies; and alternative models to more effectively pursue the democratic ideals of freedom, security, prosperity, social equality and social harmony.

Corporate-led, narrow forms of globalization driven by neoliberal economics bypass and thereby marginalize some groups of people. These economic ideologies are rooted in textbook errors assuming scarcity that incentivizes competition and conflicts over resources. Global culture is dominated by patriarchal values, resulting in unequal, unbalanced decision-making and governance structures worldwide. We need cooperation at all levels—family, communities, corporations, cities, nations and global institutions of collective governance - in order to transform the culture. LaRae Long, Executive Director of Ethical Markets, emphasized the importance of local and virtual networking and information sharing in maintaining a vibrant democracy.

The modern nation-state is the product of centuries of gradual social evolution by the integration of smaller units—city states, regional kingdoms and states—within a larger political, social, economic and cultural entity with common laws and a shared psychological entity. A case study of managing the threats of sea level rise by Nancy Shaver, Mayor of St. Augustine, and Vice-chair of Florida’s state-wide committee of mayors, illustrates the significant scope for individual initiative and local impact by committed political leaders and concerned citizens in the vibrancy and their enormous importance for the effective governance of the nation-state. Establishing and maintaining a delicate balance between freedom for individual initiative, local vitality and dynamism, and centralized administration is the greatest challenge confronting large, centralized democracies today.

Garry Jacobs reflected on the causes and consequences of the recent deterioration in the quality of American democracy and its impact on the country and the world. These events clearly demonstrate the serious problems posed by the dominance of money in politics and the lack of accountability of the two party political system to the will of the people. At the same time they have had the salutary effect of demonstrating the limitations on the exercise of absolute power due to the checks and balances between branches of government, the semi-autonomous functioning of government agencies and the judicial system, and the magnitude of the power of states to challenge and successfully oppose or circumvent policies which they did not support related to environmental protection, the rights of immigrants and freedom of choice. The shattering of illusions about America may well be an essential step in the emergence of a more mature, responsible, committed community of nations.

The importance of managing uncertainty as a path to progress was underlined by Rodolfo Fiorini. Democratic culture accepts uncertainty and the idea that there is always more than one answer to any problem, and truth in each of multiple, even opposing viewpoints. There can be no peace without development, no development without peace and neither one without human rights and democracy. Our current crises call for unity among people and reunification of knowledge. The more we share common values and accept individual divergence, the more chances we will have for peace and progress.
The close proximity of intercultural contact, intensity of interaction and contradictory orientations has been a perpetual stimulus to civilizational advances and cultural creativity in science, language, religion, literature and the arts. Garry Jacobs observed that the tensions in the region highlight its special significance as a human laboratory and testing ground for the movement of human unity founded on respect for cultural diversity.

Emphasis was placed on the inseparable relationship between culture and governance, which underlines the limitations imposed by the compartmentalization of the social sciences. Power and culture have always been closely associated. Social power is a product of the values of the society and the distribution of the power is a reflection of those values. Democracy in Europe emerged as an expression of the prior evolution of liberal social culture and not as its cause, as is so often forgotten by policy makers who seek to impose the apparatus of democracy on societies which do or have not yet acquired the cultural values compatible with it. Remus Pricopie, WAAS Fellow, Member of ISACCL’s Scientific Council and Rector of the Romanian National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, emphasized the importance of the Institute’s research agenda to shedding light on the future course of global governance and social evolution.

The increasing speed, complexity and uncertainty of modern life have multiplied and intensified cultural contacts to a degree never before experienced in human history. That is a major reason for the tensions generated along cultural boundaries. It is also the source of an unprecedented opportunity for creative cultural enrichment. The workshop explored the conditions under which cultural identity shifts its emphasis from opposition to what is different to inclusion. Alberto Zuconi perceived ISACCL’s mission as an effort to create a unifying narrative for the region that will shift the balance from one to the other.

Daniela Zaharia examined the pressure on the region resulting from the demographics of a young population, globalization of economy and technological developments. Florica Mihuţ stressed the need for research on how to reorient and leverage cultural identity from emphasis on differences to exploring the cultural gains that accrue from cultural contact and integration. Indeed, the whole of human history and the sum total of all human civilization and culture has been a result of that process. Peace and harmony in the region require a shift from intolerance toward that which is different to a respect and admiration for complementary cultural perspectives. The relationship between religion and the state was explored by Andreea Grecu-Ciupală, Director of ISACCL. It is noteworthy that throughout history the separation and subordination of religious leadership from governance played a critical role in the formation of the nation-state, which required development of a national identity distinct from shared religious beliefs.

The Balkans have historically occupied a central position as the passageway and meeting ground between Europe and the Levant. The region remains strategically important to this day. Nebojsa Nešković identified three types of expansionism impacting on the region which represent important elements of global governance: the energetic expansion of Russia toward Europe via oil pipelines passing through the Balkans, the economic expansion of China toward Europe through the Belt and Road Initiative which now includes 17 nations, including 11 EU members and 5 Balkan countries, and the military expansion of NATO toward Russia since 1991 which came to a critical stage with the outbreak of civil war in Ukraine in 2014 and threatens the onset of a new Cold War.
ISACCL’s program on “Solidarity of Empathy for Peace” brings together world leaders to spread the culture of peace and call for support for the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula. These leaders with their first hand experience of the Cold War, Korean War, ethnic conflicts and the transition to democracy possess valuable expertise in the long process of peaceful reunification.

It is some thirty years after the Cold War ended, and nearly twenty since the idea of Korean reunification was tentatively explored. The process can be expedited with international support. The move for reunification can be initiated by first allowing people to travel freely between the North and the South. Then employment and economic relations can gradually pave the way for political unity. This will establish peace not just in the region but across the globe.

German strategist Clausewitz considered that war was a continuation of politics by other means. Peace can also be a result of politics, obtained through other means. One of these means is cultural diplomacy—which without intending to replace the traditional diplomacy of dialogue between parties having different interests, supported through different types of pressures and force threats—can complement it with a new element: the dialogue based on understanding the other and a better understanding of the world we live in.

**Revival of the Silk Road**

Great projects remain in history because they create regional, national and international solidarities. This is true of the Silk Road project. The revival and continued significance of this project depend on its cultural as well as its political and economic impact. Political relationships can break in a matter of hours, economic ties in months, but cultural relations last centuries.

Current Silk Road initiatives focus on the economic, infrastructural and political aspects. ISACCL promotes both the economic as well as the cultural value of the project. Its commitment to the project can be traced back to the 1990s when TRACECA, a transport passageway between Central Europe and South West Asia, was proposed. Today, ISACCL supports projects dedicated to the cultural heritage of the countries crossed by this road and calls upon the support of academia, science and cultural research to complement the efforts of politicians and business people towards reviving the Great Silk Road project in all its dimensions.

**Upcoming Event**

**Global Leadership in the 21st Century**

Baku, March 17, 2019

Organized by Nizami Ganjavi International Centre & WAAS

Global leadership appears to be virtually absent at this critical juncture in human affairs when it is most needed to prevent the loss or reversal of the most important gains since the end of the Cold War. This meeting will seek ways to revive and develop different types of leadership at the global level. It will explore strategies designed to generate awareness of unutilized global potentials, mobilize and direct global social energies and resources for practical application, strengthen the effectiveness and functioning of existing institutions of governance, and release a broad-based social movement to transform the compelling challenges confronting humanity today into catalysts for rapid global social evolution.
Disruptive technologies appear at an accelerating pace today and if we manage the incoming Fourth Industrial Revolution with the same blindness and forms of denial with which we managed the previous industrial revolutions, the negative effects on our society will be exponential.

Today, Artificial Intelligence assists people and improves their work efficacy. It has contributed towards accelerating research, cybersecurity, wildlife preservation, diagnosing illness, and human search and rescue. Eventually, there will come a day where robots will perform most tasks and the role of humans in the production cycle will be marginal.

We are on the cusp of significant transformative changes that will impact society worldwide, revolutionizing global business operations and fundamentally altering how inanimate objects are perceived in a world increasingly reliant on autonomous systems. It is hard to envision the dynamics of a robot-driven economy. In order to prepare for the uncertain future as best as we can, education is our key facilitator. We need deeper reality understandings and multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary competencies in the business, technical, management and social communities at all levels and scales.

WAAS’ participation in ICCI*CC 2019 is an effort to understand the societal implications of intelligence, knowledge, and big data sciences and handle the shrinking gap between humans and machines in order to develop symbiotic relationships that have significant positive implications for human society as a whole.

– Rodolfo Fiorini
Professor & Academic Scientist, Politecnico di Milano, Italy; WAAS Fellow

18th IEEE International Conference on Cognitive Informatics & Cognitive Computing (ICCI*CC 2019)
July 23-25, 2019, Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy

IEEE ICCI*CC 2019 is a flagship conference of its field, sponsored by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers). Following the first 17 successful conferences on Cognitive Informatics and Cognitive Computing, the 18th edition focuses on the theme of Symbiotic System Science. It is co-organized by IEEE and WAAS, and consists of two parallel yet intertwined tracks to promote fruitful, reciprocal knowledge, a cross-fertilization of the two lines of human thinking that are complementary to each other.

The CPT (Cyber-Physical-Technical) Track will present the latest developments in natural intelligence systems, man-machine systems, cognitive robots, intelligent IoT, etc., based on Cognitive Informatics, the transdisciplinary field that studies the mechanisms of the brain, underlying abstract intelligence theories and denotational mathematics, and their applications. This Track will be organized under the supervision of IEEE.

The CSW (Cognition-Society-Wellbeing) Track, organized by WAAS, will examine the economic, educational, social, legal, political, cultural, epistemological and psychological implications of rapid advances in cognitive computing and machine learning. It will study policies that regulate disruptive technologies while fostering innovation so that individuals and businesses can reap the benefits of these technologies. ICCI*CC 2019 will provide an opportunity to focus on the social consequences and policy implications of knowledge that are of paramount concern to future society, and governance. Researchers, practitioners, and graduate students are welcome to join this international initiative on cognitive informatics and computing where Art & Science join symbiotically to create a brighter future. For more information and to register, click here.

March 31, 2019: Submission of Full Papers

The CSW (Cognition-Society-Wellbeing) Track, organized by WAAS, will examine the economic, educational, social, legal, political, cultural, epistemological and psychological implications of rapid advances in cognitive computing and machine learning. It will study policies that regulate disruptive technologies while fostering innovation so that individuals and businesses can reap the benefits of these technologies. ICCI*CC 2019 will provide an opportunity to focus on the social consequences and policy implications of knowledge that are of paramount concern to future society, and governance. Researchers, practitioners, and graduate students are welcome to join this international initiative on cognitive informatics and computing where Art & Science join symbiotically to create a brighter future. For more information and to register, click here.
CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR SPECIAL SESSION ON
“Human-Centered Symbiotic System Science for Industry 4.0”
for SMC’19 - October 6-9, 2019 – Bari, Italy

Systems, Man, and Cybernetics (IEEE SMC 2019), the annual conference of IEEE, represents an international forum for researchers and practitioners to report up-to-the-minute innovation and development, summarize state-of-the-art developments, and exchange ideas and advances in all aspects of systems science and engineering, human machine systems, and cybernetics. The theme of the conference is Industry 4.0.

SMC 2019 includes a special session on human-centered Symbiotic System Science (SSS) for Industry 4.0. SSS is a growing scientific area which is taking a leadership role in fostering consensus on how best to bring about symbiotic relationships between autonomous systems. WAAS is partnering in this special session.

Session Description

This special session deals with the problem of cognitive and evolutive learning by SSS, illustrating focused examples specifically. The modern world has been shaped by the technological revolutions of the past, like the Industrial Revolution and the Information Revolution. Today, disruptive technologies are appearing at an accelerating pace.

In January 2015, Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk, and other experts signed an open letter on artificial intelligence (AI) calling for research on the societal impacts of AI, anticipating its potential risk to the violent downfall of humankind.

On the contrary, AI, Computational Intelligence and Cognitive Robotics are helping people around the world do their jobs more easily and in shorter time. Regulating has never been easy, but the overwhelming pace of technological change and unprecedented interconnectedness of economies has made it a daunting task. Nevertheless, if we manage the incoming Fourth Industrial Revolution with the same blindness and forms of denial with which we managed the previous technological revolutions, the negative effects on our society will be exponential. We need more integrated, articulated and antifragile approaches to be successful. The goal is sharing the SSS concepts as the theoretical common framework to harmonize separate efforts to help develop more effective human-centered symbiotic systems, faster and more reliably.

Session Organizers

Rodolfo Fiorini, Politecnico di Milano University
Newton Howard, Oxford University
Garry Jacobs, World Academy of Art and Science
Yingxu Wang, University of Calgary

Important Dates

• March 31, 2019: Submission of regular and special session papers;
• June 07, 2019: Acceptance/rejection notification of regular and special session papers;
• July 07, 2019: Final camera-ready papers.

Submission Instructions

• All papers must be submitted electronically using PaperCept. Please go to the PaperCept Conference Manuscript Management System page, available at http://conf.papercept.net/conferences/scripts/start.pl, and follow the conference link in order to upload your manuscript.
• Only PDF files will be accepted. The maximum file size for uploading all papers is set to 2 MB.
• Please, follow author guidelines and use paper templates available at http://smc2019.org/information_for_authors.html

For more information, please contact support@worldacademy.org
The 5th Altius conference gathered eminent scientists, educators and philosophers at the Oxford Union under the title “Educating for the Future.” Organized by Carlos Blanco (Associate Fellow, WAAS) and Alexandre Pérez Casares, co-founders of Altius, the main theme was how to empower the human mind as a means to ensure the stability of democratic societies and major economies in the 21st century. Beyond a traditional analysis of education, it explored topics such as:

- Need for developing critical thinking and understanding in our contemporary societies
- Future of educational institutions amid the rapid economic and social transformation enabled by technological disruption
- Training and instruction to prepare for increasingly complex economies and societies
- Need to redefine human values and citizenship and the requirement of a new paradigm in national and global governance.

Four Nobel laureates (Sheldon Glashow, Peter Agre, Sir Richard Roberts and Oliver Hart) and thinkers such as Howard Gardner, Harvard psychologist credited with developing the concept of multiple intelligences, economist Jeffrey Sachs, Anne Watson, Archie Brown, Manuela Veloso and Simon Blackburn were among this year’s speakers. Garry Jacobs, a past speaker at Altius, also participated in the event.

– Carlos Blanco, Co-founder, Altius Society; Associate Professor, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Spain; WAAS Associate Fellow

New Proposals

Alliance for Development and Climate Change

There is a pressing need for a transformative alliance to avert the worst consequences of climate change while advancing the development concerns of Agenda 2030! The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Federal Minister Gerd Müller have launched a multi stakeholder initiative “Alliance for Development & Climate” in the context of the 2018 Katowice Climate Change Conference. The Alliance recognises, links and advertises the simultaneous promotion of development and climate protection.

Climate, population development and SDGs are closely linked to each other. Fighting climate change requires that we act much more decisively than before. The SDGs need a new, less nationalized approach and more international financing in order to implement the Agenda 2030. The new Alliance will address this bottleneck by activating the private sector/all non-state actors, to voluntarily invest in the field of CO₂ compensation through co-benefits generating projects in non-industrialized countries. Its vision is an effective alliance of strong non-state actors, especially market leaders, for climate-neutral/climate-positive economic activities.

The activities of the alliance partners are voluntary and are carried out through participation in high-quality projects in non-industrialised countries. The Alliance is supported by WAAS and the Club of Rome. Other confirmed partners are Alfred Ritter GmbH & Co. KG and Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation. Everyone is called upon to take responsibility in a strategic multi-stakeholder initiative for development and climate protection!

Franz Josef Radermacher, Director, Research Institute for Applied Knowledge Processing; Professor of Computer Science, University of Ulm; WAAS Fellow

UN World Citizens’ Initiative

Civil society organizations from across the world are preparing an international campaign to be launched in 2019 that will promote an instrument for citizens’ input at the United Nations. The effort is led by Democracy Without Borders, Democracy International and CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation and is supported by WAAS.

The idea of a UN World Citizens’ Initiative (UNWCI) is that if a certain number of global citizens endorse a citizen-launched initiative, UN bodies such as the General Assembly or the Security Council have to put the item on their agenda and give representatives of the initiative the floor to make their case. In the first case, this could be done during the annual general debate each September while heads of state and government are present.

A UNWCI will allow global citizens to have more impact in a world with growing dilemmas that require global cooperation of both states and citizens alike. It will help create a citizen-based global political sphere.

WAAS Fellows and organizations they are involved with are invited to join the campaign. For more information and to support visit www.worldcitizensinitiative.org.
New WAAS Partnerships

The Millennium Project
GLOBAL FUTURES STUDIES & RESEARCH

The Millennium Project is a global participatory think tank established in 1996 under the American Council for the United Nations University that became independent in 2009 and has grown to 63 Nodes around the world (an MP Node is a group of institutions and individuals that connect local and global perspectives). As a global foresight network of Nodes, information and software, it is building a global collective intelligence system recognized for its ability to improve prospects for humanity. A think tank on behalf of humanity, the Millennium Project identifies long-range challenges and strategies, and initiates and conducts foresight studies, workshops, symposiums, and advanced training. Its mission is to improve thinking about the future and make it available through a variety of media for feedback to accumulate wisdom about the future for making better decisions today. It produces the State of the Future reports, the Futures Research Methodology series, the Global Futures Intelligence System (GFIS), and special studies. Over 4,500 futurists, scholars, business planners, and policy makers who work for international organizations, governments, corporations, NGOs, and universities have participated in The Millennium Project’s research since its inception in 1992 and founding in 1996. The Millennium Project was selected among the top ten think tanks in the world for new ideas and paradigms by the 2013 and 2014 University of Pennsylvania’s GoTo Think Tank Index, and 2012 Computerworld Honors Laureate for its contributions to collective intelligence systems.


UPCOMING EVENT

4th International Conference on Future Education

FUTURE EDUCATION
BELGRADE 2019

Today’s youth need to acquire “evolutionary competence” based on knowledge and skills for jobs that do not even exist today. A new type of education—a new paradigm—is urgently needed to address the challenges and paradoxes of the coming age, capitalize on the emerging potentials, and transform possible threats into opportunities. WAAS and WUC are working in partnership with universities and other organizations around the world with this objective. The 4th International Conference on Future Education is being organized in Belgrade, Serbia in November 2019 in order to accomplish this goal.

UPCOMING EVENT

Approaching 20?? Year
Podgorica - May 16-18, 2019

The unprecedented speed of globalization, technological development and social evolution is raising fundamental questions and generating new types of challenges and complexities that express in terms of climate change, financial crises, skills gap, widening inequalities, immigration, increasing insecurity, and other fundamental doubts about the future. The Approaching 20?? Year conference will explore these challenges and the steps that need to be taken to moderate the consequences of rapid technological change, mitigate its disruptive impact and maximize its positive potential. This conference seeks to develop the comprehensive and inclusive knowledge required to transform rapid change into progressive global social evolution.