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Dr. Yiannis Laouris is a medical doctor specialized in neurophysiology (East and West Germany, and Arizona, US) and a systems engineer (US). He is the President of the Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute (www.cnti.org), a non-profit institute that focuses its research on issues of learning through computers, profiling of mental abilities and treatment of learning disabilities using computer technologies and engineering problems related to the planning and execution of movement. His recent research interests relate to the definition of socially responsible integration of modern technologies in the lives of growing children and the development of learning environments that take advantage of such development while keeping the mentor-learner relationship. He also founded an international chain of franchised computer learning centres known as CYBER Kids (www.cyber-kids.com). During the past 10 years he became actively involved in the citizens' peace movement in Cyprus. Together with Dr. Harry Anastasiou he founded the Technology For Peace portal that pioneered in offering a comprehensive virtual infrastructure and communication services to peace builders across the border.



Dr. Harry Anastasiou holds a Ph.D. in the Political Sociology of Peace and Conflict from the Union Institute & University, Cincinnati, Ohio, and a Doctorandus Degree from the Free University of Amsterdam, Holland. He is a long-standing academic in inter-ethnic and international peace and conflict studies, and an experienced practitioner of conflict-resolution. At present, he is a core faculty of the Conflict Resolution Graduate Program and an affiliate of International Studies at Portland State University. For over fifteen years he has been playing a leading role in the development and growth of a citizen-based peace movement in the ethnically divided island of Cyprus and in Greek-Turkish relations. He has also been a participating member of "The Harvard Study Group", a bi-communal think tank comprised of policy leaders and academics working on ideas and



Experiences from a Nation-Wide Experiment Introducing IT in the Lives of Children: Fifteen Years Later

In 1992, we launched a nation-wide experiment based on a concept we then called the "profitable dream." We envisioned that introducing advanced computer technology in the lives of a critical number of young children using an educationally relevant and socially responsible, peace-enhancing curriculum would allow us to "transcend" the country's educational and political life and move the new generation a decade ahead. The project was founded on a well-defined vision statement: "... to re-define the tools, methods and purpose of education, in light of relevant social change." The vehicle chosen to disseminate the impact of the project and its vision was the profit-making concept of franchising. Within the first five years (1992-1997) 26 computer-learning centers were launched with average of 50-150 students enrolled in each location. By 1999, the number of children who benefited from the Cyber Kids curriculum exceeded 15,000, which is approximately equal to 20% of the country's youth population (ages 6-15). During the same period, the organization trained and employed 186 young and talented university graduates, thus combating brain drain while simultaneously spreading the Cyber Kids philosophy and knowledge to many more spheres of social life. This paper attempts, fifteen years later, a critical examination of the project, and an evaluation of whether the experience gained in employing IT in connection with innovative education can serve to bridge the digital divide in terms of high-tech literacy and economic development contributing to the world's top priority, fostering and strengthening a global culture of peace. A brief overview of the award winning cyber method is also provided.

approaches for the peaceful resolution of the Cyprus problem. He is a senior researcher with the Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute and a co-founder of the Cyprus-based Technology for Peace Project. As an academic, he has published numerous articles on peace and conflict issues, focusing in particular on Cyprus, Nationalism, Peace building and the European Union.

