

Dear audience, colleagues and friends,

You are all warmly welcome to attend this special occasion, **Yrjö Neuvo Jubilee Seminar**. A special occasion in honor of a very special person, Professor **Yrjö Neuvo**. A person, who is very difficult to define by definitions, delimitations or generalisations. A person known for breaking boundaries, overcoming obstacles and inspiring towards the new and unknown – predicting the unpredictable in education, research and innovations. A real game changer.

This event serves to show our gratitude to him.

Yrjö has done a tremendous job for Aalto in various roles, always in the very core of the university. Yrjö's role has been pivotal already in the formation of Aalto University as a member of the national preparation committee chaired by **Raimo Sailas**. The committee was set up to build a new kind of university focusing on innovations and excellence. From the very beginning, Aalto has been home to multidisciplinary, and Yrjö helped to create Aalto's multidisciplinary research platforms as an instrument of cross-school and cross-discipline collaboration.

And, as well known, Yrjö's strong contribution at Aalto University has continued in various forms and roles during Aalto University's first decade. As Professor and Research Director he has led Aalto-wide major research programs.

For example, Yrjö was Director of Aalto's **MIDE program, Multidisciplinary Institute of Digitalisation and Energy**. The research program focused on long-term basic research in the fields of digitalisation and energy technology and it created top-level expertise, strengthened education and increased the competitiveness of Finnish trade and industry. The MIDE programme, which ran from 2008 to 2013, gave a kick start for the Aalto-1 satellite, and supported research in biofuel cell systems for portable electronics, energy efficient wood processing, and many more. One of the talks in today's seminar sheds light on how MIDE supported carbon nanotubes research.

In addition to research projects, the MIDE programme also included a postgraduate course called **Bit Bang** promoting a wide knowledge and understanding of digitalisation of the future. Bit Bang was based on Yrjö's own experience of working both in industry and academia, which triggered his

interest to find ways to increase doctors' employment in the industry. One Bit Bang course alumni will today share his memories on the course.

The journey continues. Yrjö is still doing valuable work for Aalto fundraising, together with **Matti Pursula**.

Dear friends,

During these years, Yrjö has left an indelible mark not only on the whole world, technology, business and Aalto University, but also on the numerous colleagues and students he has met here. In this context, I would like to share a few of these memories, as they are a good illustration of Yrjö's incredible diversity and his richness of ideas.

'Designing Aalto University in the working group led by the late Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Raimo Sailas. Great memories of innovative collaboration that served the purpose of reforming Finnish higher education and research. And now we can admire the results.'

'Congratulations for your amazing career! You have been a mentor, advisor and role model to a whole generation of Finnish signal processing researchers and professionals as well as played an important role in the success story of Finnish wireless industry. Best of luck with your ongoing and future endeavors in technology, science and science policies.'

'I have worked with Yrjö in several of his many roles for more than twenty years. I cannot stop wondering his everlasting energy, inventiveness, and this wide scope of interests that does not seem to have any boundaries. In particular, I admire (and envy) his capability to be excited about technology and the opportunities it offers for mankind and business.'

'Yrjö has an exceptional ability to inspire people's curiosity and keep discussions open for new ideas. He never insists and never gives up! That's a rare combination.'

'Testing of the first carbon nanotube thin film based capacitive touch sensor, which could not quite take the touch of Yrjö's 'tiny' finger, but rather broke. But the later similar touch devices worked much better.'

'Since Bit Bang course I have always been pushing the boundaries of my knowledge outside my expertise. This is one of my biggest learnings from Yrjö during my PhD studies. I feel truly privileged that I was able to be one of Yrjö's students. All the best and warm wishes.'

'I always remember you as a very warm person. You have faced younger people with the same dignity as more experienced scientists. It has always been a pleasure to listen to your thoughts and presentations and to learn! Thank you for these experiences!'

I wonder where Yrjö is at the moment, could I reach him?

(Ilkka ottaa kännykkänsä esille ja näpyttelee Yrjön numeron soittaakseen hänelle; samalla lyhyt filmi alkaa:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zG_uLftD7ZcyolZpQUYXmVjpci9_mdwD/view