

Dear colleagues and friends,

How can we celebrate the illustrious career of a remarkable individual whose contribution to so many fields is beyond what one can say in a few words? Someone who, after a professional journey of more than 50 years, retains boundless enthusiasm?

Let me begin with some personal notes. I have known Yrjö across three spheres, as an executive in Nokia, as an academic at Aalto, and of course also as a personal friend. Across all these spheres, Yrjö's infectious enthusiasm, wonder of new technologies and future orientation have been apparent. Yrjö is, to me, a role model of CONTINUOUS RENEWAL CAPACITY, always learning, always interested in new things, and always imparting that orientation to all the people around him. A person who has realized great things himself, but also inspired countless others. If there is a Moore's law, there is definitely also an Yrjö's law. Those gaining his contagious enthusiasm have gone on to impart that to many others, and so on and so on. One just wonders how many people have been touched by Yrjö in this way? The branches of this tree of inspiration must be doubling at least every 2 years!

Dear Friends,

Our title for today is PREDICTING THE UNPREDICTABLE which certainly has a strong link to Aalto University and Yrjö. In fact many aspects of Aalto's strategy appear to parallel Yrjö's character. Our previous strategy until this year was labelled SHAPING THE FUTURE – and this, if anything, IS Yrjö, predicting what comes next. Another key quality of Aalto from the very beginning has been, as Ilkka mentioned, MULTIDISCIPLINARITY. Who knows exactly how many disciplines Yrjö has been involved in, and how many bridges he has built between those? We also highlight INNOVATION – and, again, Yrjö has carried forward innumerable innovations, taking theory into practice, crossing between academia and industry. And now, in our fresh strategy for 2021-2024, we highlight three new qualities. First, SUSTAINABILITY – where Yrjö certainly is a pioneer, connecting digitalization and energy, and an evangelist for electromobility. Second, RADICAL CREATIVITY; Yrjö has continually brought forward new ideas – many of which we take for granted today. An anecdote from our audience guestbook for today; when at Nokia Yrjö “radically” proposed color screens for phones – others wondered why would those be needed for a device that we use only for phone calls? And last but not least the third theme of our strategy, ENTREPRENEURSHIP. Not only has Yrjö directly commercialized many technologies in his own career, but he has also acted as a mentor to countless others, giving them the education, inspiration and confidence to go forward.

So how is it that Yrjö “HAPPENS” to embody all these elements of Aalto strategy? Is it a coincidence? Clearly not. These elements of Aalto strategy exist significantly BECAUSE of Yrjö, his role in the very foundation of this institution, his continuous contribution through the means mentioned by Ilkka and others. Yrjö is fundamental to what surrounds us at Aalto today. In fact the key characteristics of Yrjö predicted this outcome!

So, dear friends, how do we predict the unpredictable? How do we understand what to build for the society of the future? I think it is obvious. Look at Yrjö's character and orientation, his wizardry of new technologies, and his approach to continuous learning. Take forward Yrjö's spirit that has brought all of us here today; enthusiasm, wisdom and not to forget, a great sense of humour.

Let us keep these important qualities in mind throughout the day and celebrate Yrjö by looking to the future together. And knowing Yrjö NEUVO, he just might have some new ADVICE for us....

THANK YOU