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Reflections on the Information Society

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Introduction

- What does the term “Information Society” **mean?**
- In what sense does the “Information Society” **really exist?**
- Today all countries declare that they create together the **Global Information Society (GIS).**

Introduction

- “Information Society” as **one step on a stairway of technological progress:**



Traditional and technogenic types of civilization development

(according to RAS Full Member V.S. Stiopin)

- *Traditional*: **reproduces** the available models of activity.
Technogenic: **changes** models of activity by searching for and application of new technologies.
- Technogenic civilization evolved from traditional Western civilization in West Europe about 500 years ago.

Traditional and technogenic types of civilization development

Cultural-genetic code of technogenic civilization:

- the person is intended for **activity**;
- the nature is an ordered **field of objects** (available to scientific knowledge and technological change);
 - priority is given to an ideal of the individual's **free identity** which has equal rights with others and can join in different social communities;
 - **innovation** and **progress** values;
 - the power is more **over objects**, than the power over people.

Traditional and technogenic types of civilization development

- The technogenic civilization **changes** traditional civilizations. It draws them into an orbit of its own technological development.
- *Earlier*: military captures and colonization.
- *Today*: catch-up modernization.

Traditional and technogenic types of civilization development

- The end of 20th century. A new cycle of **penetration** of technogenic civilization is the development of *Information and Communications Technology (ICT)*.
- **The mechanism** of this expansion is: 1) *to gain technological advantage* in competitive fight between the countries of "kernel" of technogenic civilization; 2) *to apply this advantage* to real life at global level with the help of international political institutions.

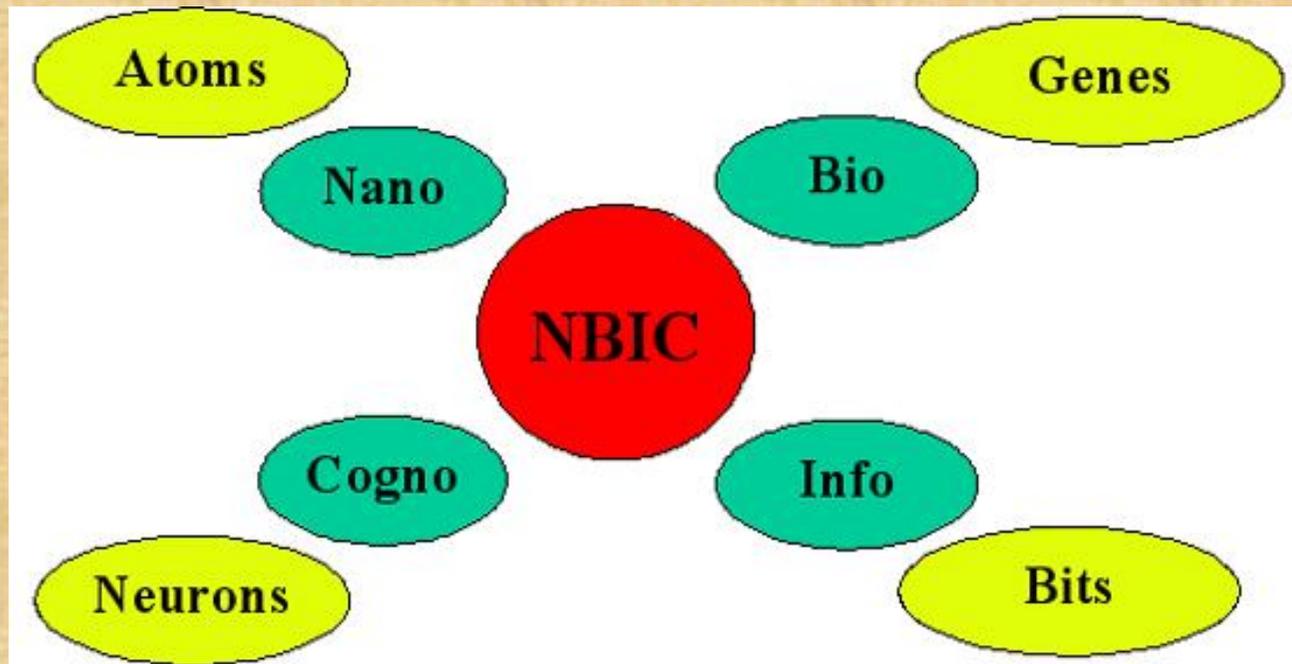
The global Information Society as a political reality

- Not all countries in the world **took part** in the creation of the basis of a new information reality at the early stages (1980s-1990s).
- UNESCO's position: "Information Society" – is only a **technological base** for building a human-oriented "Knowledge Society" (67th chapter of Geneva WSIS "Declaration of Principles", 2003).
- UNESCO World Report "Towards Knowledge Societies" (2005).

Prospects of development of the Global Information Society

- The idea of the creation of the human-oriented “Knowledge society” **contradicts** the technogenic civilization’s value system. It is focused not on internal improvement, but on *active transformation* of the world.
- We are standing **on the threshold of a new technological revolution.**

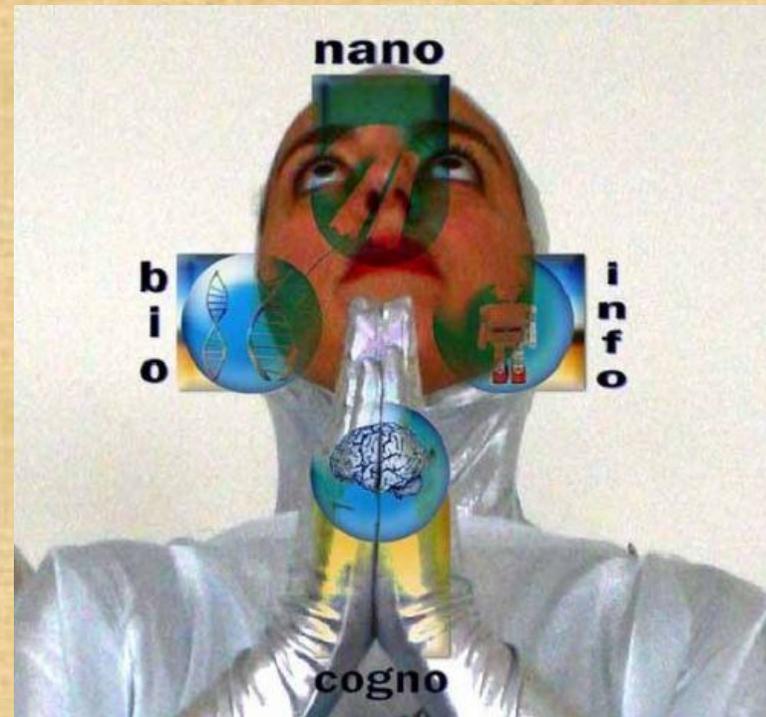
Prospects of development of the Global Information Society



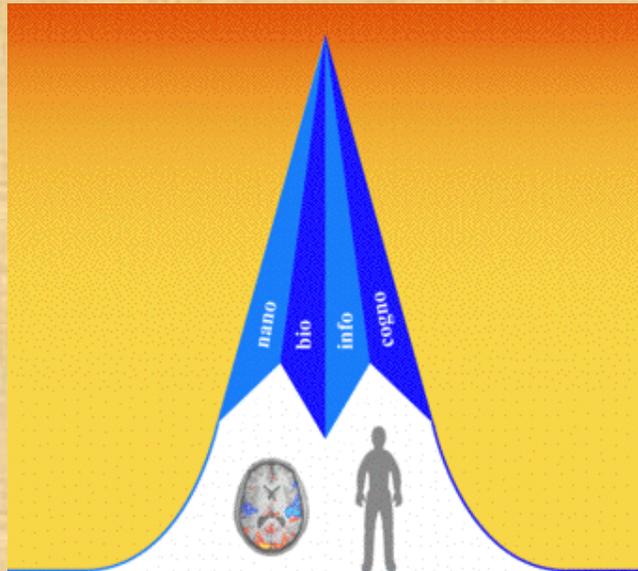
- Converging **nano-bio-info-cognitive (NBIC)** technologies.

Prospects of development of the Global Information Society

- The purpose of NBIC-technologies is to **improve (enhance) Human Performance**. It means *technology ruling over human nature* (both body and mind).



Prospects of development of the Global Information Society



Mihail C. Roco and William Sims Bainbridge, eds. **“Converging Technologies for Improving Human Performance.**

Nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology and cognitive science” (2002).

Report commissioned by the U.S. National Science Foundation and Department of Commerce.

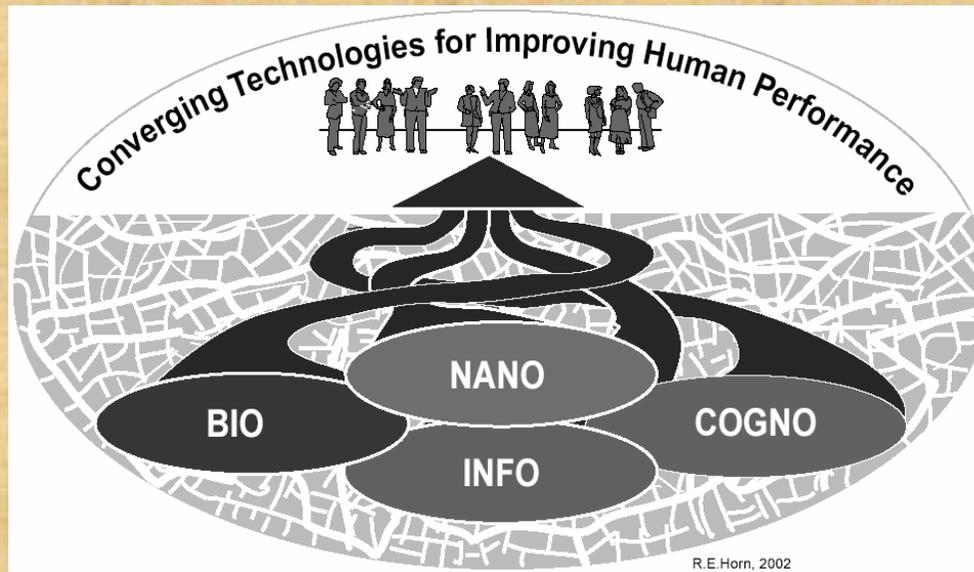
Prospects of development of the Global Information Society

“If the *Cognitive Scientists* can think it,
the *Nano* people can build it,
the *Bio* people can implement it, and
the *IT* people can monitor and control it”
(by Roco and Bainbridge, 2002).

Prospects of development of the Global Information Society

- Report **“Converging Technologies – Shaping the Future of European Societies”** by Alfred Nordmann, Rapporteur (2004).
- *European approach to NBIC-convergence: “CTEKS – Converging Technologies for the European Knowledge Society”*.
- Mihail C. Roco. **“Possibilities for global governance of converging technologies”** (2008).

Prospects of development of the Global Information Society



- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as a **tool of transition** to a new technological way.

Conclusion

- The concept of “Information Society” **is losing relevance**. It is being replaced with “Knowledge Society”.
- Will “Knowledge Society” be technocratic or humanistic?
- The future is not so much predicted today, but it is more **projected (designed)** and **practically implemented**.

Thank you
for your attention!