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## WELCOME ADDRESS

*Your excellences prime minister Djukanović,  
your excellences ambassadors,  
your excellences ministers in Montenegrin government,  
distinguished participants of the conference Transition to a new society,  
ladies and gentlemen.*

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts on this occasion where we met to discuss one of the greatest issues of the civilization: to give answer to existence choice or what some call new paradigm.

We have been living all the time with technology, not been often aware how it affects our lives. Certainly, technologies in the past have not been of such intensity and availability as they are today. Today, technologies do rely on new knowledge and they are product of scientific discoveries, and are present in any activity of human lives.

All human activities are influenced by knowledge/technologies much more than we are aware. On the other side many would argue that humanities and arts are reasons why human should live. Humanities and arts are very much related to spirituality which is basically consequence of emotional intelligence. On the other side science and technology are consequence of intellectual intelligence. There is great difference how those two intelligences behave. Our emotional intelligence has been changing very slowly through time and it can be considered as linear process. Intellectual intelligence changes due to new knowledge very fast, even exponentially in time. So, going through time the discrepancy of those two intelligences is going to be bigger and bigger. In other words our spirituality and life we practice using technology are going to be more and more different, and it is not difficult to predict that in due time they will be, even, in conflict.

Technology does not affect only human activities, but what is becoming more important it affects possibly human spirituality, and even might do harm to human emotions. It is hard to predict what sort of relation is going to be, in the future,

between technology and human being, and who will dominate our lives. Not fully aware of the possible consequences we do accept many new technologies which definitely have influence on human behavior, even way of thinking, and which in large, one might argue, determine human existence. One might say, that technology, even today, is dominating our lives and that its effect to human activities is becoming the biggest issue of the contemporary world, and is going to be even more important in coming years. It is, in my view, possibly going to be even bigger unknown and threat to humans then, today, the most recognized issue: climate change. One does not have to lose from mind that one of the biggest projects in EU is aimed to design and test robot with an artificial brain. If we can make artificial brain then certainly the question is why do not we make artificial humanoid?

On the other side we are experiencing problems which have never been present in such intensity and quantity in history. Growth of population, mobility, climate change, depletion of resources and many more are reality of the contemporary world. We are all aware that many known solutions for the facing problems do not work anymore. We are aware, too, that the most of existing paradigms are not valid, also. Thus, we have been faced with choice of existence paradigm such, not to keep system sustainable, which looks in many ways not possible any more, but to provide survivability on this blue planet. Thinking on advancement in technology and its influence to all human activities the problem gets worst. So, what we can expect to be our economy, environmental behavior, ethics, moral, social issues etc, and society in large?

Those issues were the reasons why I suggested to the World academy of Sciences and Arts, the European Academy of Sciences and Arts and to the Association of European academies to support us, Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, in organizing such brain storming conference. We are all pleased for their interest and help. It turned on that the conference attracted great interest, and that there are many more of those who, unfortunately, missed to apply on scheduled time to participate in the conference.

I am certain that the speakers and participants of the conference will be provocative in their talks on considered issues and certainly on the most important one: relation of knowledge and tradition which is manifested the most in conflict between spirituality and technology. No dough, knowing many of you, that the conference will help in solving the problem of today: looking for a new paradigm.

Let me at the end be host and express to all of you welcome to Montenegro and Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts. We are small but long lasting country, and we are small academy but keep organizing very attractive conferences bringing here top world intellectuals and thinkers. We will try the best, as we have done in the past, so you do return here, again, on the next occasion. I wish you present stay in Montenegro.

Thank you!