



Dear Readers,

I will receive a distinction – this is to happen in Bratislava, Slovak Republic on 4th November 2011 in the famous Hall of Mirrors in the Primate's Palace. I was distinguished by Ferdinand Martinengo Gold Medal for the activities in the spirit of humanism. So I prepared a short speech, which I hope to present there on the occasion.

Your Eminences, Your Excellencies, Your Magnificences,
Spectabiles, Honorabiles, Ladies and Gentlemen!

This is unusual and a great honour to be among the prominent awarded by Ferdinand Martinengo Gold Medal for the activities in the spirit of humanism, granted by the association named after him and the Paneuropean Union in Bratislava, Slovakia. The Great Citizen of Bratislava in Slovakia, a teacher of Italian language and gymnastics, born in Zagreb in Croatia, coming from the Italian family, educated in Budapest, Hungary and the New City near Vienna in Austria, in his youth remaining in the service of the Principality of Liechtenstein, propagating ideas of sport among young people, is a symbol of united Europe and its humanistic ideals, and the balance between the human spirit and body. That is why this year the choreographer, the sportsman, the doctor and the scientist are awarded. I have the honour on behalf of that group of the Awarded to thank sincerely the dignified Chapter of the Medal for this great distinction, dignity and honour.

Let me also pay attention to several aspects.

Representing the University society, I would like to recall the words of a creator of the modern idea of the enterprise University – Prof. Wilhelm von Humboldt. These are not walls, but people which decide the strength of the University. Today, when so much attention is paid to the technical infrastructure and scientific research, particularly it is important not to forget about people for whom everything serves. This is a great humanistic duty of the University and its staff - teachers. Universities, of course, mean great professors. But so they could arise, it is necessary to work every day for years with BSc and MSc students, and then with PhD ones and DSc doctors. It is the mission of a Professor: to hand down his knowledge and skills to the younger generation. Here I find my mission, so far I have managed to promote nearly 45 doctors, out of whom a part are professors. Teaching is a very important activity, also for professors. Paraphrasing the words of Seneca, a philosopher from already two thousands of years, it is necessary to remember that we have been teaching so long as we understand what we teach. Without the educational process there has been no progress of science. And one more thing. The Nobel Prize winner Albert Einstein pointed out that the imagination is even more important than knowledge. It is just courage to break stereotypes, nonlinear and unconventional thinking and seemingly crazy ideas, reaching beyond the boundaries of knowledge and science fantasy, which can provide both scientific and organisational progress, of which then dozens, or even hundreds or thousands of young people take advantage. Because they – present students, years later, will become Professors, Directors, Ministers, Prime Ministers and Presidents, serving other people. And finally, an open attitude and a discussion. The famous American rocker John LaMonica noticed that the exchange of one hundred dollar banknotes between two people absolutely does not have effect on the state of their wealth, while the exchange of ideas will enrich each of them. That is why I like my work.

I like to work with BSc, MSc and PhD students, to ensure them good conditions to carry out scientific research, to publish results of their research and to exchange thoughts on scientific conferences. The results of this work, which I have been making for more than 40 years, are surely also seen in wider, general humanistic dimension because I stand here today, among so dignified company, as an awarded by the Ferdinand Martinengo Gold Medal.

Once again I would like to thank the High Chapter and you, ladies and gentlemen for your attention.

We hand over the next issue of our journal to P.T. Readers hoping that as usual P.T. Readers will be interested in it and encourage P.T. Authors to publish their works in our journal.

Gliwice, in October 2011

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