

International Research Group Reports Milestone in Access to Public Health Information

Brussels, Aug. 29, 2015. Today the AMICABLE research group reported what appears to be a significant milestone in the eradication of 3rd world pandemics. Benefiting from the joint European/US dedication to both basic and applied scientific research dating from the 2010 resolution by European Council President Bono and US President Barack Obama, the group has apparently achieved a breakthrough in techniques for the worldwide accessibility of public health information. Results from pilot studies reported today show that the accessibility of relevant knowledge from translated audio and visual records in many languages provided a significant boost for the public health statistics in several test African villages, both from access to more technical medical information for local health practitioners, and from access to less detailed but essential health tips and warnings for the general public. Previous related work was based on giving access to crop prices for semi-literate farmers in India, but the more recent work incorporated the automatic translation (and information extraction) of all health information relevant to an area.

American participants in the research were greatly aided by the national decision in 2009 to drastically change the ratio between military and scientific spending, so that the latter actually exceeded the former. As we all know now, this actually had the effect of increasing US and European security by reducing the perception of the West as being a belligerent party in world affairs. The mutual decision by American and EU funding agencies to drop all restrictions on nationality for research funding (including a major influx of US funds for research in Europe) also is said to have been a major factor in putting together the best teams for the highly aggressive targets of this research. According to project leader H.B. Wiseman, the audio/video cross-language information access effort was greatly aided by matching grants from both the US and European funding establishments, and the transatlantic cooperation was further facilitated by the full 3-dimensional holographic telepresence for group meetings so that international travel was not a major obstacle. This is particularly important given the travel disruption from the major flooding that has occurred in all major American and European coastal cities due to the excesses of the pre-Kyoto period (before 2008).

[Contributed by Nelson Morgan, ICSI].