

Lunchtime Seminar

Title: In the Beginning was Information

Speaker: Prof. em. Dr. Werner Gitt

Date and Time: Thursday, 20th April 2017, 12:45-13:45

Venue: University Hall of International Christian University in Mitaka/Tokyo, Room H 152 (1st floor), Buildg. No. 1 on campus map.

Campus Map: <http://www.icu.ac.jp/en/about/campus/>

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Language: English (lecture slides with Japanese text)

Entry: Free. No reservation required. Everybody is welcome.

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Abstract: In his lecture Professor Gitt summarizes the fruit of a lifetime of scholarship in information science. Dr. Gitt's central thesis is profound – that information is a nonmaterial entity foundational to all life and it can never arise spontaneously from strictly material processes. He provides the most rigorous and useful definition of information thus far formulated, and shows how to distinguish his definition, from things which are often mistakenly called information. Dr. Gitt shows that information only arises from an intelligent source – and that ultimately all useful information, including biological information, comes from God. The lecture is a challenging, but is well worth the effort for all those who wish to understand the ultimate origin and purpose of information.

Biography: Werner Gitt was born in Raineck/East Prussia (Germany) in 1937. In 1963 he enrolled at the Technical University of Hanover and in 1968 he completed his engineering degree (Dipl.-Ing.). Thereafter he worked as an assistant at the Institute of Control Engineering at the Technical University of Aachen. Following two years of research work, he received his doctorate summa cum laude, together with the prestigious Borchers Medal from the Technical University of Aachen, Germany, in 1970. From 1971 to 2002 he was the Head of the Information Technology Division of the German Federal Institute of Physics and Technology (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, PTB) in Braunschweig. In 1978 he was promoted to a Director and Professor at the PTB. He has written numerous scientific papers in the field of information science, numerical mathematics, and control engineering, as well as several popular books, some of which have been translated into more than 20 languages. Since 1984 he has been a regular guest lecturer at the State Independent Theological University of Basle, Switzerland, on the subject of 'Bible and Science'. He has held lectures on related topics at numerous universities at home and abroad, as well as having spoken on the topic 'Faith and Science' in a number of different countries (e.g. Australia, Canada, France, Hungary, Japan, Russia, and the USA).