

Professor Jacques Hebenstreit - a remembrance and celebration of his work with IFIP TC3 6.03.1926 - 3.07.2020



Professor Jacques Hebenstreit was the IFIP TC3 Chair from 1979 to 1984.

In the early 1970s, when the seat of IFIP was still in Geneva, Raymond Morel (now the Swiss National Representative to IFIP TC3), received at Collège Calvin a visit of a delegation of IFIP people, with Professor Jacques Hebenstreit among them. After a talk from Jacques on developing competencies for students in ICT, Raymond expressed his total disagreement, based on Raymond's concrete experiences. Concern arose in the room, with people telling Raymond that "this is the famous expert Jacques Hebenstreit", but Raymond maintained his position, and Jacques added, "this young colleague is quite right - I was wrong". For Raymond, this was a curious way to enter, for decades following, strong, fruitful, efficient, friendly and frequent collaborations with Jacques about important thematic topics relating to introducing ICT into education.

Jacques Hebenstreit was a famous expert, with a global view about what should be an effective integration of ICT for citizens, future citizens and society. In discussions, he always demonstrated his advanced awareness of the evolution of hardware, software and telecommunications; but nevertheless, his views always considered ways that accommodated effective and humanistic needs. His dynamic approach was well appreciated, certainly because of the thinking and ideas he brought that offered prospective views.

In frequent exchanges and discussions of Jacques Hebenstreit with Raymond, key themes were shared with colleagues for subsequent discussions at meetings. If no solutions resulted, then the theme was transformed to provide a topic heading, for a focus at a next working conference, to enable multiple perspectives and viewpoints to accommodate existing diversities of thinking. From the long list of activities that resulted during that time, it is possible to measure how systematic and successful this process adopted by Jacques was.

The way that Jacques Hebenstreit managed meetings was recognized as a marvelous model of management. Jacques certainly had an agenda with items for fixed periods of time, but he was always aware of the time that items would take, accommodating and allowing strong interactions between participants. At the end of these items, Jacques was always able to summarize the strong points arising from the discussions, offered through global views.

After his retirement from IFIP business, he was still willing (acting in a hidden way, 'behind the curtain') to offer IFIP TC3 valuable inputs and advice, always through a critical view that considered future and human perspectives. Jacques was said to take a severe approach (although this might not have been so real, but rather one that was promoted by his colleagues), but was quite willing to collaborate in a friendly way through exchanges.

Whilst we have lost Jacques Hebenstreit, we can continue to value his scientific work, his high-level scientific competencies and strong humanistic values, and seek to emulate and maintain those for ourselves.

Our thoughts are now with his family, to whom we extend our most sincere condolences.

May he rest in peace.

Past and current members and officers of IFIP TC3