

Dear specially invited guests, dear members of the families of Ole-Johan Dahl and Kristen Nygaard, dear representatives of the Austrian and Dutch Embassies, dear representatives of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, dear colleagues and participants of ECOOP 2004.

On behalf of the ECOOP 2004 Organizing Committee I will say a few words about the Memorial Exhibition which commemorates three great computing scientist, Edsger Wybe Dijkstra from Nederland and Ole-Johan Dahl and Kristen Nygaard from Norway, before it is officially opened.

The exhibition is not the work of the Oslo ECOOP, nor is it our idea. To be in the terminology of object-orientation, this is a case of reuse and re-factoring. The original exhibition instance that was created last summer at the University of Klagenfurt in Austria. The exhibition was an important part of two conferences that were held in Klagenfurt in August 2003, The Joint Modular Languages Conference and the Euro-Par Conference on Parallel and Distributed Programming. To quote the Klagenfurt programme: "In memory of three truly influential computing scientist who passed away in the summer of 2002, we have organized an exhibition that attempts to explore the human individuals behind their science and that serve as a link between the two symposia". Many people were involved in establishing the exhibition in Klagenfurt, but its prime idea-maker was Univ. Prof. Dr. Laszlo Böszörményi of Institute for Information Technology, University Klagenfurt.

The exhibition in Klagenfurt was a superclass object of our exhibition. It was 40 meters long, placed in a long glass corridor serving as a bridge between two university buildings. We have had to re-factor the original and look for a more compact solution. Compact, yes, but I can assure you that our compression method was not a lossy one. Furthermore, because of restrictions imposed by the layout of this building, we have had to transform the Klagenfurt object into a distributed version, with components working in parallel, rather than in the sequential manner of the original. We also had to replace some of the internal objects of the original, but we managed to do that without changing any interfaces. Almost.

Many people have worked hard to make the transition to Oslo possible. In particular I'd like to mention the families of Dijkstra, Dahl, and Nygaard - some of the family members are with us today. They have contributed both material and information necessary for making the result so professional, personal, and relevant for our profession. I would also like to thank the technical staff of the Georg Sverdrup House for their excellent support in installing the exhibition. Thanks also go to The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters for covering the printing cost of the book "People behind Informatics" that is an integral part of the exhibition

I now leave it to Professor Jens Kaasbøll, Head of the Institute of Informatics at the University of Oslo, to officially open the exhibition.