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Nokia Foundation Award to Professor Moncef Gabbouj**Award recognizes Gabbouj's progressive work in the development of an international educational network and graduate engineering studies in Finland**

Nokia Foundation has granted its annual award to Professor Moncef Gabbouj for his merits in the development of an international educational network and graduate engineering studies in Finland. Gabbouj is a world-renowned expert who has progressively broadened international cooperation in the teaching of information technology and signal processing. With the award, Nokia Foundation wants to emphasize the importance of international education and networking in Finland. The internationalization of research and attracting international experts to Finland is vitally important to maintaining competitiveness.

The EUR 10,000 prize money was awarded at Nokia Foundation's scholarship awards ceremony on November 29, 2005, when the Foundation celebrated its 11th year of operation.

Professor Gabbouj has participated in establishing Finland's first master's degree program in the field of signal processing, and he has been involved in planning the graduate engineering educational program in signal processing. He has also helped to expand the international university program to cover the master and doctorate programs at the Tampere University of Technology's IT department. Professor Gabbouj is a long-time resident of Finland and a distinguished researcher in the fields of nonlinear signal and image processing and image coding as well as multimedia data analysis, indexing and retrieval methods.

"For the emergence of centers of excellence and cutting edge research, it is important to create an environment that attracts talented individuals. This must be supported both by companies and society. It is also important to ensure that fundamental issues are in order, basic issues like legislation, the research environment and the research infrastructure. It is important to focus on working to ensure that we remain a strong contender in the competition also in the future. In order to achieve this goal, we need expansive research and development programs and investments, both in Finland and in Europe," Nokia's Chairman and CEO Jorma Ollila noted at the Nokia Foundation awards ceremony.

Nokia Foundation awarded 84 scholarships this year totaling EUR 428,000. Of the 84 scholarships, 71 targeted the support of fast-progressing post-graduate studies aiming for a doctorate in information and data communications technology, 9 were for visiting fellows and researchers, and 3 for visits by internationally distinguished lecturers.

Previous recipients of Nokia Foundation annual awards were Lauri Kuokkanen (1995), Pekka Tarjanne (1996), Linus Torvalds (1997), Arto Salomaa (1998), Kullervo Nieminen (1999), Osmo A. Wiio (2000), Ilkka Haikala (2001), Veikko Rintamäki (2002), George Metakides (2003), and Heikki Lyytinen (2004).

Nokia Foundation was formed in 1995. The Foundation supports the scientific development of information and telecommunications technologies and promotes education of the sector in Finland.

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Nokia is a world leader in mobile communications, driving the growth and sustainability of the broader mobility industry. Nokia connects people to each other and the information that matters to them with easy-to-use and innovative products like mobile phones, devices and solutions for imaging, games, media and businesses. Nokia provides equipment, solutions and services for network operators and corporations.

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