

Foreword

The New Millennium is not only a date in the calendar. It is also the time when new possibilities of IT have a revolutionary influence on the world.

The growth of IT creates new phenomena and trends, like:

- creation of information societies, which we can call virtual communities,
- formulation of new rules of functioning of modern organizations,
- new job places and rules for managers and entrepreneurs in modern organizations, and
- new methods and systems to supported decisions in the constantly changing world.

A recent Nobel Prize in Physics is closely connected with the growth of IT.

H. Kroemer and J. Kilby from the United States and Z. Alterow from Russia received the Nobel Prize for their contribution to IT. Also, the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physics for E. Cornell, W. Ketterl and C. Wieman, all from the United States for the achievement of Bose-Einstein condensation, will support the development of IT in the future. The 2001 Nobel Prize in Economy for G. Akerlpf, A. Spance and J. Stiglitz, all from the United States, for asymmetric information, is proof of appreciation for scientists who, having worked in this field, created new rules of functioning of modern organizations.

As it is known, the growth of IT, especially the Internet, has a great influence on modern communities. IT offers everyone new techniques of activity. We have to change our approach to business and management. We often use the new terms like; “New economy” or “New face of management.”

If we analyze theoretical and practical achievements in business and management we can observe the following steps in the world development of schools of management:

- productivity,
- motivation,
- decisions making.

Presently, we are heading towards management in the conditions of full information. Information has become an economic resource of special significance.

The basic problems of modern organizations are decision making problems in activities where we have limited resources (for example: ground, manpower, capital), and we want to fulfill the needs of society. For solving modern organizations problems, a lot of different computers tools is required. The new approach to management is connecting with knowledge. We can say that contemporary management is the management of information and particularly the management of knowledge. IT allows for carrying activity in cyber-space where the time of information transfer and decision making is very short.

Present problems of society that we can solve with supporting new possibilities are:

- E- business and E- market,
- Virtual organizations.

In my book, *Modern Organization in Virtual Communities*, I would like to show differences between traditional approaches and new approaches to the changes in organization. I would like to discuss the following problems:

- Direct information systems for management, which supports decentralization and democratic style of management in organization;
- Creating fluid and elastic structure of organization;
- Place and role of managers in modern organization;
- Globalizations and connected change of culture style in management; and
- New elements in opportunity or alternative cost for decision making in modern organization.

These are the basic problems. Are they sufficient? The answer can be varied. I think that the list of problems is long and unfortunately, this book will have only mentioned the more important problems.

I would like to mention at the end, what is modern organization? Today, it's modern organization; in the future, it will be the old organization.

Jerzy Kisielnicki
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