Alumni of the "Intelligent Systems" Program: New Achievements are Ahead!

This week, holders of the Master's degree of the "[Intelligent systems](#)" International Program were taking congratulations on the occasion of successful defenses of graduation qualification works. For this reason, all 12 graduates got together at the Academic Board Hall where the official SPbPU graduation ceremony was taking place. The Rector of SPbPU Academician of RAS, A.I. RUDSKOY addressed the new Master's degree holders with the words of farewell and wishes of new achievements and bright victories: "You have not an easy way behind you, but you have managed and already achieved quite impressive results. Do not give up facing new events and boldly move forward. We are proud of you!" the Rector said. The director of the ICST Higher School of Cyber Physical Systems and Control, on the basis of which the "Intelligent systems" international program is implemented, V.P. SHKODYREV wished graduates successful careers and bright victories in their future.

Since the "Intelligent systems" is a [double degree program](#), the students do not slow down: the defense of the Master's theses in Germany is still ahead. Pretty soon, they will go to Leibniz University of Hanover (LUH), where they had also

studied during the year under this program. Strong partner relations connect SPbPU and LUH for more than one decade, and joint implementation of the "Intelligent systems" program began back in 2012. The experience that students have received as a result of this collaboration can be called unique. The groups of Russian, U.S., Indian, Mexican, Polish, Egyptian, Pakistani, Chinese, and Lebanese students studied in English and communicated in English. The English language was the only way for them to understand each other. Leading specialists from Russia and Germany taught them, while the practical classes took place at both Russian and German enterprises and companies.

 "*It was quite difficult in the beginning: the systems of training are fundamentally different in Russia and Egypt. But now everything is in order. I defended my graduation work in Russia, and I am ready to defend it in Germany. My research is dedicated to automatic recognition of emotions by persons' faces. Its results can be applied in medicine: it is possible to diagnose various neuropsychological problems based on video shots and the analyses of patient's facial expression mimics,*" a graduate from Egypt Mahmoud ABUZEREAAA says.

A student from the United States Christopher Blake has already made his plans for postgraduate studies: *"My master's thesis is devoted to the development of the theory of self-learning robots capable of independent learning based on the experience of interaction with the external environment and independent decision making in the conditions of uncertainty and unpredictability of the external environmental impact on the robot. The more data we have, the more opportunities to develop software similar to human logic we get. I am quite excited with this topic, and I dream about continuing to develop it in the postgraduate school. And I am very grateful that our professors supported and developed my aspirations. They are true experts and connoisseurs in their field; I learned a lot from them,"* Christopher shared.

 A graduate from Mexico Suzana GARCIA is fascinated by a new direction in robotics: the soft robotics. *"We can very well say that soft robotics could be applied in practically all spheres of our activities. The theme of my thesis is 'sensibilization' of robots, i.e., equipping them with additional sensors, which provides for additional opportunities for robots to distinguish a human touch from touching an inanimate object. This is important for a new generation of robots focused on the tasks of interacting with persos and helping a person in carrying out joint actions. I am planning to continue working in this field, and now I am thinking about postgraduate school,"* Suzana told.

The fact that SPbPU and LUH graduates are full of enthusiasm and strive to further develop in these difficult but highly demanded areas is, no doubt, their big merit, but also a merit of their teachers at both universities. We wish them to stay optimistic and make lots of discoveries in the field of computer science, which, without any doubt, the already acquired experience will help them with.

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