Computer scientist Peeter Laud received Young Scientist Award from the President

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Today in Kadriorg, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves presented computer scientist Peeter Laud, who specialises in programming language theory and cryptology, with the Young Scientist Award of the Cultural Foundation of the President and the award money of 4,800 Euros.

When handing over the award, President Ilves said that Estonian scientists give their country a wonderful opportunity to have a say in shaping a better world as they punch way above their weight. According to the Estonian Head of State, the e-solutions that we take for granted in the Estonia of 2011 cause envy and admiration among other Europeans.

"Here, I do not find it necessary to start repeating some of the basic truths of living in the cyber age or of our e-lifestyle being e-vulnerable. Or that cyber attack doesn't mean a cyber war. Or that the cyber safety of a society starts from the cyber health of an individual. Thanks to the efforts of Peeter Laud and his colleagues, Estonian companies, state agencies and citizens are world pioneers in IT awareness. We must be proud of this," President Ilves told.

According to Mr. Laud, successful research work starts with the proper environment, ideas and a willingness to work.

Peeter Laud was suggested as the candidate for the Young Scientist Award by Academician Ülo Jaaksoo, who said that Mr. Laud's work needs to be acknowledged. "He has been able to combine research work achievements in the field of analysis of cryptographic protocols with applicable outputs; his rational engineering mind and correctness of a mathematician have won him the trust of system developers and research specialists; as a result, he has been able to bridge the gap between two communities that often stand separate from each other," stated Mr. Jaaksoo in his letter of recommendation.

Mr. Laud defended his Doctor's degree in 2002 in Saarimaa University, Germany, when he was only 25 years old. His research studies have focused on avoiding security incidents in complicated software systems by conducting static analysis of programme codes of such systems, which facilitates testing the correctness and safety of software programmes without even running the system.

He is one of the founders of calculated safe information flow and the mechanised, computationally correct analysis of cryptographic protocols. The methods that he has suggested are based, on the one hand, on the accurate specification of security characteristics and, on the other hand, the effective methods for controlling these characteristics.

The analytical methods suggested by Peeter Laud have been the bases for the further development of safe information flow and analysis of cryptographic protocols; he is one of the founders of the cryptology research field in Estonia and one of the initiators and supporters of the computer science centre of excellence since 2008. His research papers have been published in numerous reputable research magazines and collections of articles of conferences. Peeter Laud is a Professor of the Department of Mathematics and Informatics at the University of Tartu and Research Director of Cybernetica AS.

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