

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who is a patron of the Tiger Leap Foundation, today presented the Tigers Achievers 2011 awards to the best teacher and school, on what is the 15th anniversary of the foundation.

President Ilves, who was the initiator of the Tiger Leap concept back in 1996 with then Minister of Education, Jaak Aaviksoo, reminded those present at today's conference of the wish he expressed 16 years ago – to give our young people a chance to learn to use a computer and make a small country bigger in the process.

"Now, 15 years later, we can say that this project has turned out to be something big. According to various data, Estonia is listed among the countries with the largest number of computers users and we have well-developed e-services," told President Ilves.

The Estonian Head of state admitted that while we have to follow the path of Europe in quite a number of spheres, many countries can learn from our experiences when it comes to the field of IT.

President Ilves emphasised, at today's conference, the importance of teaching real sciences and computer literacy to teachers and leaders in the educational sphere.

The Tigers Achievers 2011 School Award went to Konguta School from Tartu County, as it sets an example to others with its contemporary teaching methods and the technologies it utilises. The school has now been given the opportunity to update the school's IT infrastructure to the value of 10,000 euros.

Dozens of teachers from all over Estonia competed for the Tigers Achievers 2011 Teacher award. The panel of judges decided that the most innovative teacher is the mathematics, economic affairs and computer teacher at Valga Gymnasium, Eva Tsepurko. Ms Tsepurko was awarded 2,000 euros for professional development abroad or to acquire ICT assets.

The Tiger Leap Foundation is an organisation that operates under the auspices of the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. Its goal is to increase interest among children and young people in natural and technological sciences and to help general education schools modernise their teaching processes through the use of different technologies and methodologies. The Tiger Leap Foundation is the largest organiser of information technology training courses for teachers and school directors.

Office of the President
Public Relations Department
Phone +372 631 6229