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Self-Improvement & Security : Annual Conference in Cracow

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SELF-IMPROVEMENT & SECURITY. ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CRACOW

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On May 8th in Cracow was held an annual International Scientific Conference Self-Improvement and Security organized by the School of Higher Education in Public and Individual Security „Apeiron” in cooperation with other domestic and foreign academies. Many guest participated in the conference, who are prominent researchers in the field of security and active officers, who daily operate dealing with security issues. Conference agenda was divided in three parts and each was dedicated to different subject. Before the

conference began, Rector Juliusz Piwowarski, PhD. gave a short speech of welcome, in which he expressed joy of meeting such a great group of scholars representing many different countries. He said that it is good to see guests from Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Italy and Poland sitting at the one table, and how important it is to meet in these difficult times, when the situation in Ukraine is still uncertain, to discuss security issues.



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The first thematic section was focused on humanities and sociological aspects of security, and theory of security and defense. In this part one could have noticed great variety of subjects and approaches presented in eight speeches. Presentations covered such topics as: psychological and behavioral aspects of self-improvement in the prism of Schwartz model of universal human values; personal improvement and self-fulfillment as a foundation of security culture in both individual and social dimension; the concept of security in the classical Greek philosophy; evolution of perception of military operations; self-improvement and security in classical Chinese philosophical discourse; and the issue of the so-called „clash of civilizations” in central

Europe. Some of the topics raised in presentations were intensively discussed by the group of scholars, who participated in the conference.

After the first topic section, two students of the „Apeiron” academy, who train Martial Arts, gave a short presentation of their skills, showing some techniques used in hand-to-hand combat, which are also taught as self-defense techniques. Such a presentation aimed to present and promote the mission of the academy, i.e. to improve diligently both body and mind in accordance with the Japanese rule *karade de obeoru* (which means learning throughout the body).



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The subject of the second part of the conference was internal security of state and European Union. Lectures given in this part concerned inter alia: financial security, economic security, fire investigation and fire risk, dispositional groups training etc. The speakers, who are experts in the matters discussed presented detailed analysis based

on conducted research, which concerned actual global or local risk in the field of economy. Researchers from Slovak Fire Research Institute based their speeches on actual data, pointed fire risks, analyzed them and presented case studies, which allow to describe the procedure of fire investigation.



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The third part of the conference covered the subject of counterterrorism in Europe and in the world. Five presentations concerned various topics, such as: risk and trust in physical activity in the context of preparation of counterterrorist, analysis of global counterterrorism strategy, role of forensic science in fight against terrorism, and the phenomenon of cyberterrorism.

The conference ended after discussion concerning matters touched during the sessions. The wide scope of issues undertaken by the specialists and ideas and solutions suggested and discussed can be concerned as a significant input to security studies, which are of crucial meaning for modern science.