To : **The International Human Engaged Computing Workshop**,
CHEC / Renlab
at the Kochi University of Technology,
Kochi, Japan.
November 8th 2017.

Greetings to The President of KUT, The CHEC Director Prof. Xhiangshi Ren, Members & Associates of the CHEC (RenLab), Guest Presenters & Participants attending the conference.

I have read the presenters' abstracts with great interest and I look forward to reviewing the presentations on-line. In lieu of my presence at the November Workshop, I offer the following note as my personal my contribution to the discussions:

"The term *augmentation* does not necessarily indicate *'the enhancement of **human** capacity or productivity'*. While *net productivity* may be increased by synergising elements of H + C (as in 'HCI'), the human contribution may well be dramatically *decreased* along with human *significance*. In such cases, it is not humanity that is augmented but devices (thus 'hCI'). This is not *'symbiosis'* but *'antibiosis'* at the expense of humanity. R&D is not sound where short and long term antibiosis effects on humans are not accounted for. When human capacities and potentials are not *consciously* and *specifically* given priority in innovation, design and manufacture, humans become mere *addenda to devices*, *lab sustainability, lab contingencies, and short term novelty*; the value of development becomes increasingly *irrelevant* to a mature humanity, and by natural extension to the *real human market*. In such a milieu, HCI based R & D and related industries may be sustained only through *ever increasing human dependencies* and the *loss* of *human significance*, i.e., *dehumanization*. Conversely, when human capacity and the human priority is understood and appreciated, the 'sky is no limit' to what can be imagined in HCI. *Dehumanization* in favour of devices is counterproductive to the digital development sector. Real humans are the lifeblood and purpose of all development, but one has to know *what it means to be human* to address these issues intelligently. These considerations also indicate that *collaboration* with the *humanities* is much *more than an option* - it is *demanded* by the nature of existence. … "

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'**HumÆnabling**' *(A Philosophy of Design - notes)* © J. Cahill, 2015 - 2017.

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The abstracts presented on line seem to me to be very much in line with these thoughts, and I think that is very encouraging. I wish you well, and hope your meeting together will be very encouraging and enlightening to all.

Sincerely,

John Cahill.
Brisbane.