Neuro-Baby is a communication tool with its own personality and character. Through emotional modeling, it reacts to changing voices, handshake intensity, and facial expressions. Artificial neural networks allow the system to "learn" from individual human inputs and generate customized responses. A highly dynamic, spring-actuated hand interface allows Neuro-Baby to exchange realistic handshakes with its human acquaintances.

Two Neuro-Babies can be implemented on a network, and each can have a human communication partner. The Neuro-Babies' emotional states are transmitted over the network, generating appropriate actions at the remote site.

At SIGGRAPH 95, Network Neuro-Baby demonstrates its potential for international cultural exchange. A Neuro-Baby at the Institute of Industrial Science at the University of Tokyo communicates directly with a Neuro-Baby and its human acquaintances in the International Center at SIGGR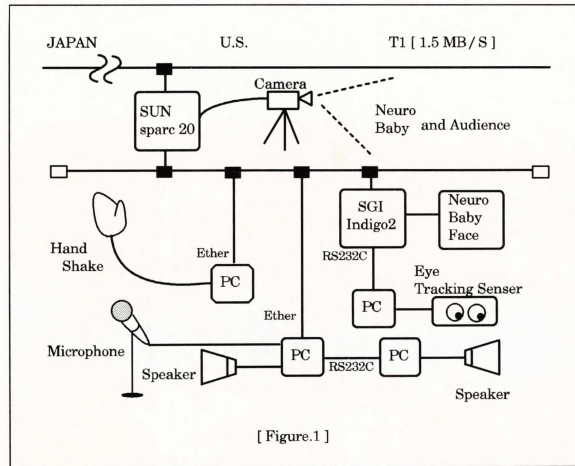APH 95. As the two Neuro-Babies share emotional states, which are mapped and communicated to human beings at both sites, they demonstrate different ways of communication and expression of feelings, and enhance intercultural understanding.

Naoko Tosa

Department of Imaging Arts and Sciences
Musashino Art University
1-736 Ogawa-cho, Kodaira
Tokyo 187, Japan
+81.3.5397.3797
MGG01533@niftyserve.or.jp

Collaborators

Hideki Hashimoto
Kaoru Sezaki
Yasuharu Kunii
Toyotoshi Yamada
Kotara Sabe
Fumio Harashima
Hiroshi Harashima
University of Tokyo

[Figure.1]