

Scientist wows with robotic 'clone' of self

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New York: A Japanese scientist has developed a body-double robot which resembles him closely, with tiny human-like movements and blinking eyes. Japanese roboticist Hiroshi Ishiguro, director of the Intelligent Robotics Laboratory at Osaka University, Japan, has been working on developing lifelike androids.

The new robot was unveiled at the Global Futures 2045 International Congress in New York. The 'Geminoid', an android resembling a real person, was tele-operated — controlled remotely — by a person off-stage. Ishiguro has also developed another Geminoid, a fashionably dressed female android, which he has shown off in the windows of clothing stores. The robot was so popular that the clothing it was modelling sold out immediately, Ishiguro said. Ishiguro has also taken his robots on the road as part of a travelling "android theatre", where they act out scenes with human-like expressions.

The roboticist also made the "Telenoid", a pillow-like bot designed to appear ageless and genderless so that people can project an imagined face onto its neutral appearance. Ishiguro



TWO OF A KIND: Hiroshi Ishiguro's robotic body double 'Geminoid' at the Global Future 2045 Congress in New York

has tested the Telenoid among the elderly in Denmark, who took to it very well, he said. Another of Ishiguro's inventions is the 'Elfoid' — a smaller version of the Telenoid that functions as a mobile phone. At the end of Ishiguro's talk, his robotic double spoke up, saying that next time, it would give a much better presentation. ¶