



Ian Johnson
Secretary General

22nd June 2011

Dear Professor Helbing,

It was a great pleasure to meet your colleagues Prof. Wolfgang Breyman and Dr. Shaoleh Ghashghaie who gave me the opportunity to become acquainted with the FuturICT project. I was impressed by the concept of the project, its ambitious goals and by the quality of the project consortium of highly recognized international and Swiss collaborators. Having read a number of project documents, I am sure that, once materialised, the project would make a strong impact on the state of the art in the world affairs.

The challenges we face, such as the risk of catastrophic climate change and of ecosystems collapse, energy and food insecurity, economic breakdown, and world poverty and exclusion are global, systemic and connected yet they demand a comprehensive analysis and understanding. They cannot be resolved separately through ad hoc, sectoral and incremental measures. But our science and research are still highly compartmented and fragmented. Our information bases are mostly locally focused, nationally based and dominated by special interests. It is now urgent: to define and develop a coherent, cross-sectoral information and decision-making support system which integrates economic, environmental and development issues; to establish effective national and international frameworks for cooperation and action; and to mobilise rapidly the public support and creativity, knowledge and resources which are available. Vision and leadership are again needed if we are to break out of the present political and bureaucratic stalemate and to avoid the judgment of history that we recognized the emerging threats to our civilisation but failed to act.

40 years ago, the Club of Rome was on the forefront of modeling global processes, analyzing the long term consequences of human activity and looking into future scenarios using system dynamics theory and computer modeling. Since then, the Club has been instrumental in attracting the attention of the decision makers and of the public to the critical challenges of the modern world.

The FuturICT continues this tradition. We are convinced that the project has an enormous potential to revolutionise the analysis of the challenges the world is facing and the decision-making process. Through its membership and networks of partner institutions and individuals, the Club of Rome is in a position to mobilise international support and participation. This is a unique privilege and opportunity that I am writing to express our strong support for this project at this critical time in world affairs.

In conclusion, the Club of Rome is strongly committed to FuturICT Flagship Initiative and I would like to confirm that we would be very interested in active collaboration as the project develops.

I wish the project every success and would be pleased to meet you to discuss how the Club of Rome could support this crucial initiative.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ian Johnson