October 14, 2011

Subj: FET Flagship Proposal FuturICT

To Whom It May Concern:

As Senior Research Director of the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University, I am pleased to confirm my keen interest and support for the FuturICT Flagship proposal.

The mission of the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, for more than thirty years, has been to investigate the deep workings of human institutions, in particular the organizational structures and appropriation and provision rules relating to the sustainable management of common pool resources. Institutions pervade every aspect of life, from public services to family and community structures to natural resources and beyond, and the Workshop's research helps people design and adapt their institutions so that they generate better outcomes. Indeed, the betterment of humankind and the sustainability of the planet depend significantly on the ability of otherwise fallible human beings to develop institutions which foster trust and encourage reciprocal norms. This enables collective action and better decision-making for resource management and self-government.

Given this agenda, we are delighted to learn of the aims, objectives and ideals of the FuturICT project. The Workshop has a wide range of interests in common-pool resources and sustainability, and governmental institutions and sustainability, and these especially resonate with the FuturICT project's research program to design and diagnose complex, global, socially interactive systems, whose focus is on sustainability and resilience. We are also taken by its aim to make and synthesize knowledge for and in the service of the public good, as the idea of the 'knowledge commons' (as manifested in the Digital Library of the Commons) has also been a particular focus of the Workshop's interests. We are also delighted to note that the proposal is highly interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, bringing together computer scientists and social scientists. The Indiana University Interdisciplinary Experimental Laboratory initiated by the Workshop similarly brings together economic, political and information scientists to analyze the impact of policy formation and application on complex systems at multiple spatial and temporal scales.

Given this complementarity between the Workshop's mission and goals and the FuturICT project's aims and objectives, we are delighted to express our strong support for the proposal and would welcome the opportunity to collaborate in the future.

Sincerely,

Elinor Ostrom
Indiana University Distinguished Professor
Arthur F. Bentley Professor of Political Science
Senior Research Director, Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis

/nt

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**
BLOOMINGTON