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**Letter of Support for: Global Early Warning System (GEWS) with Cloud Computing Technology grant application**, submitted to Computing in the Cloud (CiC) PROGRAM SOLICITATION NSF 10-550 by Professors Harold P. Sjursen and Takeshi Utsumi.

The Millennium Institute has been working with Prof Tak Utsumi for many years and this project reflects the many discussions we have had on the utilization of MIs T21 model both for better planning towards meeting the MDGs in developing countries as well as promote system thinking in general.

The GEWS project will provide the perfect platform to support developing countries in their effort to take charge of their development agenda, by having at hand the needed information to develop and run complex simulations models and analyze scenarios to inform sustainable development policies. Education is one of the key areas to assure long-term improvements in management and governance. Easy access to relevant educational material, data bases and information that is up to date and affordable is a further key element in the training of the decision makers of tomorrow, but also for supporting the decisions made today.

The major crises that have been rocking the planet in the past 20 years, from energy, biodiversity, water, food to financial are giving a clear signal that time to act is now. But where are the new leaders that will work towards building a new base for the upcoming economies? We need a different kind of thinking than the one that created the problems we are experiencing today if we want to solve them (A. Einstein). For this, there is a need for capacity development in new areas, such as systemic thinking, which itself is anchored in ecological theory, where everything is connected. The GEWS project will provide the key building blocks for the promotion of a new development paradigm supported by inter and multi-disciplinary research teams.

I am pleased to confirm the Millennium Institute's full support to the GEWS project.



Hans R. Herren, President Millennium Institute

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