

Welcoming Message

Dear Participants of the GloCha Conference 2014,

with my great regret I am not able to be personally present at this trend-setting conference, as at the same time I have to give a lecture at a scientific conference in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

The leading subject of GloCha 2014, namely "*Building the Knowledge Base and Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure for Youth Led Civic Engagement in Sustainable Development Action*", is of outstanding importance for the global welfare and wellbeing of the next generations. It is thus just a matter of logical consequence to integrate the young people into this endeavor: bringing experience together with young entrepreneurial spirit provides the best conditions for successfully mastering the upcoming challenges.

ICT is and will be one of the most important driving forces of global development. Therefore, the foundation of a Competence Center for Youth, Sustainability, and ICT should be more than welcome in a region like Carinthia. Quite a couple of building blocks for forming the critical mass that is necessary for supra-regional impact exist already, namely:

- the Alpen-Adria-University with its strong departments of informatics and information technology, featuring both, internationally recognized research and highly ranked study programs,
- the Carinthian University of Applied Sciences with its ICT oriented programs,
- the Lakeside Science and Technology Parc with its innovative research units and companies, and
- other internationally successful ICT companies.

Consequently, Klagenfurt has the potential to become a dynamic and entrepreneurial competence hub with growing international impact. I am sure, that this conference is a step forward on that route.

So, I am happy to welcome you all here, to wish you fruitful discussions and promising results, and to thank the organizers for their engagement and hard work.

Heinrich C. Mayr