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Mannheim, May 15, 2012APsl

Leonardo European Corporate Learning Award 2012 "Crossing Borders"

Dear Professor Mitra,

It is with great delight that we can officially inform you that the international scientific advisory board of the "Leonardo European Corporate Learning Award" would like to present you with an award in 2012.

There are three equally important award categories: "Thought Leadership", "Company Transformation" und "Crossing Borders". The board has proposed that you should be recognized in the category "**Crossing Borders**" this year. We would feel deeply honored if you were to accept this accolade, and if you could confirm your attendance of the Leonardo award ceremony at Grand Hotel Schloss Bensberg near Cologne in Germany on the 24th of September 2012 to receive the prize in person.

The award principles state:

„Leonardo da Vinci gives an unprecedented example of transcending old disconnected schools of thinking in arts and sciences by producing excellent works full of insights, empathy and passion. They were most competitive as well. This is why he is the name patron of the prize.” The award honors personalities with special achievements and outstanding merits in educational processes of great impact.

Leonardo "Crossing Borders" puts its emphasis on outstanding new developments that provoke a fundamental challenge of predominant mindsets, with an effect on corporate learning. This allows the board to commend new, promising and "daring" enterprises that are establishing alternative approaches which "make a change" for the corporate world and for society through their impact on individuals. Starting with a revolutionary view on how to tap into the creativity of young children and by letting them learn in a physical context - as designed and implemented by you across continents - you have shown that children can learn more than imagined under their own steam. In addition, you have addressed the serious problem of teaching masses that have no chance of an education in areas where schools and teachers are lacking.

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You have also proven that the concept of minimal invasive education is applicable not only to countries in Asia and Africa. Your research at Newcastle University shows that this also holds true in countries such as the UK and other European regions.

As a consequence, your work is setting a new research agenda demanding fundamental pedagogical research on how we learn in situations where scarcity of information and communication has been dramatically reduced by new technologies.

You have inspired educators worldwide to reconsider traditional teaching methods and to design new models for talent management both in regular education and corporate learning. In all these impressive achievements of yours, the international advisory board sees a fulfillment of Leonardo's spirit whom the prize is in the tradition of, and which is embodied in an extraordinary manner by the previous laureates Professor Jacques Delors (2010) and Wikipedia-founder Jimmy Wales (2011).

Dear Prof. Mitra, please accept our great respect and cordial congratulation for being chosen as laureate "**Leonardo European Corporate Learning Award 2012 – Crossing Borders**".

We look forward to hearing from you soon with your acceptance and confirmation of your attendance of the festive award ceremony at Grand Hotel Schloss Bensberg on the 24th of September 2012.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander R. Petsch

Günther M. Szogs

Prof. Dr. Winfried Sommer

On behalf of the Leonardo Award Advisory Board and Steering Committee