

Epilogue

Let us—using the depth of considerations about technologies and organizations after reading this book as setup—finally have a look beyond our organizations, at the economy as a whole and at our societies.

The resource crisis of our planet is just as often a media issue as the—expected—development of economic growth. The paradigm of continuous growth is part of the “subconscious” of our Western society and therefore also of the global economy. From an evolutionary point of view this—as many scientists tell us—will lead us into the abyss. One can only appeal to those who are in charge and responsible, to rapidly and gradually reshape this part of the “society’s subconscious mind”, to change the way we measure and evaluate economic performance or to seek a more disruptive approach. Digital disruption and transformation is changing our society profoundly but we are not about to change how we evaluate human paid, unpaid and voluntary work and how we evaluate the work of machines and AI’s to the best of social development, to the best of our societies. We should not wait for the total crisis as impetus. There is a high risk that this will lead us to uncontrolled changes and social upheavals.

Let me—as begun in the preface—end with a small fictional narrative close to driving—the car (still) being probably one of the best symbols of our Western civilization:

A group of international managers are—on the way to a solar energy project site—driving a road across the Arabian desert in highly sophisticated self-driving cars—the latest technology from the luxury segment. First, the route leads on highways and then it continues on typical sand roads. Over the radio, the cars of the convoy are interconnected. The passengers are talking about the bad economic data in the region, in Europe and the USA as well as the increasingly frequent natural disasters in the world. But the now available technologies of energy storage and energy transport make them optimistic about a recovering economic growth after the past seven “years of drought.” And the carbon dioxide emissions now are finally also decreasing!

The weather forecast has predicted a medium sand storm. The navigation system can automatically choose the best route to avoid the central area of the sandstorm. Every passenger has a bottle of water with him. That is usually all

they need. You do not get so thirsty with the air condition providing cool temperature and enough humidity in the car. However, the sandstorm is enormous.

Suddenly the navigation system no longer works. They can no longer receive satellite signals. Lately there were reported some disturbances with the satellite telephone resulting from too old equipment in the sky. That was due to the public budgets more concentrating on military infrastructure than on the maintenance of the civilian infrastructure. There were also recent reports about terrorist and cybercrime attacks with new technologies on sensible public space-based infrastructures. Due to recession in the last decade public infrastructure was rather neglected. But nobody expected those satellites and GPS to fail. The storm was heavy so that the street now could not be seen any more. The convoy stopped. There was no map and no compass in the car. There was some fuel left for keeping the air condition on. There was only one bottle of water for every passenger left ... good luck.