
Editorial

Guest Editor

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Biographical notes: Dr. Tsuneo Nakahara was received a BS degree and a PhD degree of Engineering from the University of Tokyo in 1953 and in 1961 respectively. He joined Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. in 1953, and has worked at the R&D Laboratories, System & Electronics Division and the Communications Division of the company. He assumed Executive Vice President and Vice Chairman in 1985 and in 1991 respectively. He has achieved outstanding results in research and development in a wide range of fields in communications, especially research concerning transmission wires and cables. He also contributed various papers and made various keynote speeches on technology management including International Forum on Technology Management in Grenoble (1998), Asia-Pacific Science and Technology Management Seminar in Incheon, Korea (2003) and Trilateral Science Policy Seminar by US, China and Japan in Hawaii (2003). He has received a number of awards, including Blue Ribbon Medal from the Emperor of Japan (1994), the IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal (2002) and Commander of the British Empire (2004).

1 Objective of this special issue

Since the end of the cold war, global mega-competition has been emerging, owing to the globalisation of politics, borderless economy by most countries, and the progress of transportation systems and information and communications technologies.

It goes without saying that globalisation solely does not enhance the sustainable growth of the world. *The dispersion of human activities, for example transferring of production plants from developed countries to developing countries and areas, do not necessarily add to total enlargement. They are apt to be a zero-sum game.* High expectations for innovation are set on for sustainable growth especially by venture and start-up enterprises. Knowledge management is instrumental in the growth of innovative activities. This special issue is projected to allow innovators and entrepreneurs to take advantage of its publication.

The development and dispersion of new industries using new technology synchronous with new social demands is fundamental to the recovery from structural recession. Conventional industry-sectored governmental and industrial systems have lost much of their effectiveness.

Papers on this Special Issue on 'Knowledge management platforms and entrepreneurship' focus on new industry systems that improve effectiveness and create

inventions to innovation. A knowledge management platform is denoted as a network system usually utilising internet or similar media in which new technology or high-technology related information is accumulated and retrieved. Such a platform allows a human-network-based exchange of information and opinions, and the creation of new ideas or concepts. Extending beyond the exchange of information, this platform can also be used as a tool to coordinate, for instance, human resource allocation, and other managerial and entrepreneurial tasks. The papers introduce case examples or consider how to construct knowledge management platforms, how to utilise them and how to apply them to problems of entrepreneurship.

2 Classification of the contributions

The papers in this special issue might be classified generally into two categories:

- academic analyses
- reports on innovative trials.

Initially while academic papers rather than reports of example or practice were expected, a considerable number of contributions reported on the proactive trials.

Scholarly and logical accuracy is significant for papers. However, the introduction of trials and examples is also very important in the emerging and developing fields. In the progressive and innovative area, such as knowledge management platforms and entrepreneurship, both categories of theoretical analysis and implementation or practice would be appropriate for publication, because they are complementary. It has become my belief that both types of papers are useful for readers and should be included in this special issue.

3 Impression of the papers

Every author seems to have a keen interest in this special issue, because this is a developing area and contributors are enthusiastic about pioneering this area. New ideas and concepts are created or introduced. I, indeed, believe this special issue will be helpful for entrepreneurs and readers interested in innovation and entrepreneurship.

However, in some papers that report on trials or case studies, discussion is restricted to the nations or the areas in which the authors reside or conduct research activities. Consideration on whether the conclusions the authors reach are derived from locality or approved generality is needed. In this sense, further study should be expected in future.

Acknowledgements

This special issue would not have been published without the support of numerous persons. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the co-editors, Professor M.V. Zedtwitz, Tsinghua University; Professor J. Mitra, Luton University; Dean T.S. Low, National University of Singapore; Professor K. Niwa, The University of Tokyo; and Dr. D. Bodson, President IEEE Engineering Management Society; for their various

and valuable advice in preparing this special issue. Thanks also to the reviewers for their candid and strict but friendly comments to improve the quality of the contributions. Most of all, I appreciate all the authors' efforts in making this special issue a precious publication. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Dorgham, the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief, for inviting me to guest-edit this special issue and for creating the opportunity to publish a journal.