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## **Editorial**

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### **The challenges of e-business**

E-business have significantly impact the ways of how business is conducted in the 20th century. We have seen a dramatic shift whereby organisations began implementing e-business technologies for operational efficiencies and effectiveness, as well as, a strategic move to compete in global marketplaces. In order to achieve competitive advantages, organisations need to evaluate their core-competencies and the availabilities of resources, both internally and externally. Furthermore, the analysis of the business models, potential of risks, and the selection of e-business technologies that aligns with their strategic plans become complicated and convoluted. The analysis of an e-business plan should include the expansion possibilities with the multi-faceted units within the organisations. A feasible study from potential current systems implemented by other organisations can be both gratifying in order to minimise the possible obstacles after implementation.

In this special issue, the first two manuscripts reviewed the business models for e-business. The issues associated with the development of the models were discussed. Framework for the development of business models was discussed. Furthermore, the models for e-marketplaces were analysed in further detail. The next paper draws upon the potential risks related to e-commerce development. An empirical study was conducted and ten major dimensions of risk associated with e-commerce development were identified. In the NHS manuscript, the alignment of strategy to obtaining sustainable value is discussed. This manuscript analysed the strategic movement of UK's National Health Service (NHS) application of information systems. From the business strategy to the alignment of technologies, business goals, partnership collaboration, the manuscript provided the framework for integration. The final manuscript provided a view of the upcoming issues and trends of e-business or the next stage of e-business. This manuscript analysed the various issues that are pertinent to re-evaluation of current systems that may hinder future systems integration. The demand for integrated systems (hardware and software, standardisation of communication protocol among others) for information sharing will become challenging, as the need for portability and ease of use will be expected from the end-users and customers as technology advances. Technology has not reach its peak, and further research and development will be needed to meet the services expected by the demanding customers globally.

I am truly delighted to have served as a guest editor of the special issue: 'Issues and Trends in e-business' for the *International Journal of Services Technology and Management* published by Inderscience.

In this special issue, all the accepted manuscripts have gone through a three-person blind review process. It has been challenging and rewarding to have received the best manuscripts from many scholars in the area of e-business. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all the scholars whom have submitted their best work. For without these

outstanding scholars, this special issue would not be possible. However, due to the rigorous review criteria and the recommendation from the reviewers, the acceptance rate of this special issue was 18%. I would also like to sincerely thank the reviewers for their hard work and their respectable recommendations.

I would like to thank the staff at Inderscience for the attention and assistance they have provided. It has been rewarding to work with a respectable publisher and the offer extending to me to serve as a guest editor of this special issue. I look forward to working with Inderscience in the near future.

Lastly, I would like to thank the readers of this journal. I hope you will enjoy the manuscripts in this special issue as I did. I encourage you to support Inderscience and the variety of journals that are available to you. I am sure you will find these journals to be productive in your work, and for your research needs.