
Preface

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Biographical notes: Dr. Jason Chen is Professor and the Coordinator of MIS program at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, USA. He received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. He was a Consultant for Chinese Government and an e-commerce firm in Taipei. His research interests include employing e-business models to business applications and development of model and strategy of decision support and knowledge reuse to the enterprises. Dr. Chen serves on many editorial boards and has published numerous papers in such journals as *Management Science*, *Decision Support Systems*, *Industrial Management and Data Systems*, *ACM Transaction on Mathematical Software*, *International Journal of Innovation and Learning*.

It is a great honour to have been invited to edit the special issue of the *International Journal of Management and Decision Making*, which studies and examines 'Knowledge Management and Decision Making in the Internet age'. Information Technology (IT) is a critical resource and a strategic tool for improving decision making in the current business scenario. Proliferation of new technologies, especially the internet, creates a business environment filled with opportunities and challenges. Knowledge Management is an emerging discipline and is becoming a necessary feature of contemporary business culture. To succeed in an unpredictable competitive marketplace, firms need to effectively use their knowledge and IT.

The first paper is written by Milan Zeleny. In this wisdom project, he explores challenging but promising categories related to human decision-making. He shifts the focus from information to knowledge, and then, to the next transition from knowledge to wisdom. He illustrates the framework of autopoietic cycle ACIS and presents its circulatory nature in managing knowledge of the enterprise. The future evolution of Knowledge Management with a discussion of the outlines of wisdom, wisdom systems and the contours of the Wise Enterprise are also presented.

The second paper is by Kelvin Chan and Jay Liebowitz. They attempt to demonstrate the usefulness of social network analysis as a tool for building knowledge maps that can help analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the networks effectively in organisations.

The third paper is by Hart Will. It is multidisciplinary, with topics including philosophy, logic and semantics, a fresh approach different from the usual partitions between management, economics, accounting, information systems etc. It also presents some interesting thoughts regarding semiotic modern information systems design.

The fourth paper is by Alex Koohang, Jacques du Plessis, and Johannes Britz. They introduce an interesting topic, the role of Knowledge Management in learning objects. They explore how Communities of Practice can be used as a framework in the process of creating, using, and reusing Learning Objects in Learning Organisations.

The fifth paper is by Ming-Ji Lin and Yueh-Chin Chen. This paper is a case study of Acer Inc., about what triggers a founder CEOs' transformation. The findings of this study propose a cyclical framework to illustrate the importance of learning from failure.

The sixth paper, by Ping Lan focuses on value added contribution to current thinking about the innovation process. The proposed integrated innovation model for supporting innovation decision-making can be developed by identifying an asymmetry between the outward driving forces and inward shaping forces of innovation

In following paper, Toshio Sugihara discusses and utilises information of business indices time series to update the 'state space' by linking the proposed forecasting method to data mining, for improving decision-making in electric power demand.

In the last paper, Jan Chadam and Zbigniew Pastuszak analyze selected aspects of Knowledge Management and attempt to identify the influence of Knowledge Management on synergy processes in Polish capital groups.

It is hoped that this special issue aligning latest practices, innovation, and case studies with academic frameworks and theories provides you with information about the role of Knowledge Management and decision-making of firms' competitiveness in the internet age.