
Foreword

Information Technology (IT) has made globalisation a time-critical issue. Yet, concepts and practices of information management can vary significantly from one culture to another. Without better understanding of such variations, the seemingly perfect information system and information management philosophy could become a complete disaster in a society with totally different cultural backgrounds. These problems will become more and more critical as more companies are outsourcing their information management activities. Yet, to date no sufficient scholastic studies have been conducted to address these important issues.

The main objectives of this new journal are to promote the research and practice of the new strategies, tools, techniques and technologies for the design, development and implementation of Information System (IS)/IT involving inter-cultural deviations. This will help improve the effectiveness of using IS/IT in service and manufacturing industries around the world. *IJIM* aims to establish an effective channel of communication between academic educators, IS workers, managers, industry consultants and practitioners to contribute, disseminate and learn from each other's work. The global dimension is emphasised to overcome cultural and national barriers and to meet the accelerating technological changes and changes in global economy. *IJIM* acts as a forum for exchanging innovative ideas and sharing research and practical experiences in inter-cultural information management.

In this inaugural issue, the main focuses are on inter-cultural deviations of legal aspects of information management. Papers addressing other areas of information management with respect to inter-cultural variations will appear in the future issues of this journal.