
Editorial

Kuan Yew Wong

Guest Editor,
Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering,
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia,
81310 UTM Skudai, Johor, Malaysia
E-mail: wongky@fkm.utm.my

As a new research outlet, the *Int. J. Knowledge Management Studies* continues to innovatively search for interesting themes to meet the needs of its readers. Without doubt, we are aware that the concept of knowledge has already existed for a very long time. Likewise, researchers have widely studied and reported the backgrounds, principles and frameworks of Knowledge Management (KM). These theoretical studies have certainly provided very useful insights into its underlying concepts. Nevertheless, a number of empirical studies have also centred and enriched our understanding on how to design and adopt KM. However, the development and implementation of KM initiatives challenge even the most experienced managers to successfully position their endeavours in the context of the current dynamic environment.

In this respect, practical-oriented research is essential, if not more important than theoretical studies. Organisations attempting to embark on the KM journey need information, inputs, examples and role models from existing adopters or practitioners to help them deal with KM. Hence, it is strongly believed that the growing research and literature on this subject should be more focused on the practical perspective, while at the same time emphasising on the 'how' question of adopting KM. I consider the emphasis on these two points as the key element for the successful development and deployment of KM. This special issue of the journal, thus, further builds on the status quo of the literature by devoting more attention to empirical or practical-based research.

Papers published in this special issue have been selected from a collection of more than 40 submitted papers. Articles in this issue use empirical methods such as case studies, surveys, action research or other relevant approaches to epitomise KM in practice. Generally, the papers can be broadly grouped into two categories. The first group signifies articles that describe the experiences or practices related to KM. The second category represents those that investigate relevant phenomena or issues pertinent to KM. Both categories of papers are empirically grounded, and they offer a useful avenue to comprehend the practical matters surrounding KM. I do not claim that this special issue provides a definitive answer to the 'how' question of adopting KM, but I believe it has offered a small but crucial step in this regard.

In essence, this special issue will establish a communication platform to disseminate knowledge, and it is hoped that the published papers will stimulate more research activities in the realm of KM. I would like to thank the many anonymous reviewers for critically evaluating the papers in a short duration. Finally, I hope the readers will enjoy reading this special issue.