
Foreword

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Biographical notes: Professor Rongbin W.B. Lee is the Chair Professor and Director of the Knowledge Management Research Centre, of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is currently a council member of the Hong Kong Productivity Council and a member of the assessment panel of the Innovation and Technology Fund of the Hong Kong SAR Government. He established the Knowledge Solution Laboratory, the first of its kind in Hong Kong, and pioneered the research and practice of knowledge management in various organisations in manufacturing, trading, public utilities, various government departments and healthcare. Professor Lee and his team have launched Asia's first online MSc Programme in Knowledge Management. His research interests include manufacturing strategy, knowledge management, organisational learning and intellectual capital-based management.

Professor Leif Edvinsson is the world's leading expert on Intellectual Capital (IC). He is the world's first Professor (adjunct) on IC, at Lund University since 2000. As former Vice President and the world's first Corporate Director of Intellectual Capital at Skandia of Stockholm, Sweden, Professor Edvinsson has been a key contributor to the theory of IC and he oversaw the creation of the world's first corporate Intellectual Capital Annual Report. In 1996, he was awarded by both the American Productivity and Quality Center (APQC), USA and Business Intelligence, UK, for his pioneering work on IC. Professor Edvinsson is a Chair Professor at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University since 2008. In 1997, Professor Edvinsson, together with Michael S. Malone, launched a book on IC, *Realizing Your Company's True Value by Finding Its Hidden Brainpower*. In 1998, he won the prestigious award Brain of the Year in competition with, for example, Bill Gates and Paul McCartney. In 2000, he was also on the top 20 list of Most Admired Knowledge Leaders in the World.

Since the early 1990s, the importance of knowledge management in creating competitive advantage for organisations has been recognised worldwide. It has been adopted in both public and private sectors, in companies and organisations and in government departments, for the purpose of codifying information and knowledge, for the processing of knowledge, for the reporting and management of Intellectual Capital (IC), and also for stimulating innovation and learning capability. Knowledge management has now become an interdisciplinary and complex area of study integrating technology-centred and human-centred approaches from the perspective of systems science.

The 3rd Asia-Pacific Conference on Knowledge Management was held in Hong Kong from 11 to 13 December 2006, and attracted more than 700 delegates from more than 30 countries. The event has been the largest of its kind in the region so far. This conference brought together renowned speakers from all over the world who covered almost the complete spectrum of knowledge management, from the management of intangible assets, knowledge discovery through data mining and taxonomy, to collaborative issues in knowledge and innovation management. It provided a good opportunity for both practitioners and researchers to update their knowledge of the latest developments in this field.

This special issue contains ten selected papers from the conference and covers a broad spectrum of insights and research findings in the area of learning and IC management. May we express our heartfelt thanks for the contributions of the members of the Technical Committee, the reviewers and the authors who have made this special issue possible.