
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Tan Yigitcanlar has a multi-disciplinary background and over two decades of work experience in private consulting, government and academia. As the Leading Researcher in the urban planning and development field; previously, he was responsible for research, teaching, training and capacity building programmes in Turkey, Japan and Australia. Currently, holding a senior position at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia; the main focus of his research is to promote sustainable and knowledge-based urban development in city-regions. He is the Chairman of the 'Knowledge Cities World Summit Executive Board', and a member of the 'World Capital Institute Executive Board'. He has edited five books on 'knowledge-based urban development', 'creative urban regions', 'knowledge-based development for cities and societies', 'sustainable urban and regional infrastructure' and 'rethinking sustainable development'. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Knowledge Based Development* and a 2010 KBD Special Issue Co-Editor of the *Journal of Knowledge Management*.

Francisco J. Carrillo is an International Consultant and a Professor of Knowledge Management at Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico, where he founded the Center for Knowledge Systems in 1992. He developed the capital systems model which has been applied in consultancy projects in several countries and is basis of an extensive knowledge management graduate curriculum. He is the President of the World Capital Institute and the Chair of the 'World Capital Institute Executive Board' as well as of Mexico's ADIAT Knowledge Management Commission, Founding Member of the New Club of Paris, and seats on the editorial boards of several international journals and knowledge management-related professional organisations. He is the Associate Editor (R&D Review) of the *International Journal of Knowledge Based Development*, and 2002–2010 Annual KBD Special Issue Co-Editor of the *Journal of Knowledge Management*.

Kostas Metaxiotis is an Assistant Professor at the University of Piraeus, Greece. Since 2004, he has been undertaking a Senior Advisory role at the Secretary for the Information Society, Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance. He has extensive experience in the fields of knowledge management, artificial intelligence, enterprise information systems, and e-government. Since 1996, he has been participating in numerous European Commission-funded projects as Senior Information and Communication Technology Consultant and Project Manager. He is the Associate Editor (Practice Review) of the *International Journal of Knowledge Based Development*, a 2010 KBD Special Issue Co-Editor of the *Journal of Knowledge Management*, and a member of the 'World Capital Institute Executive Board'.

Kostas Ergazakis is an Electrical and Computer Engineer at the National Technical University of Athens, Greece and holds his PhD in Knowledge Management and Decision Support Systems. He has extensive knowledge and professional experience as a consultant and project manager for projects funded by European Union and Greek National Bodies in fields including: formulation of digital and knowledge cities strategies, e-participation, re-organisation techniques, monitoring and evaluation, design and development of management information systems, and business development activities. He has published his research findings extensively in high-impact scientific journals and presented his research outcomes in esteemed international conferences. He is the Associate Editor (Policy Review) of the *International Journal of Knowledge Based Development*.

Where a city or a country aspires to be in a decade or two from now on? How its social, economic and urban structures would be shaped by then? These are very complex two questions to answer precisely, just as it is not possible to accurately predict, especially in the wake of the recent global financial crisis, what a city or a country would be transformed into over the next decades. Under this uncertainty, the incredible speed of the knowledge that is generated, marketed, exchanged and applied in all parts of our lives – society, economy, environment – provides a hope for furthering the development of our cities and countries (Carrillo, 2006). This is to say, in today's global knowledge economy knowledge and talent are continued to be seen as prerequisites for success as it was always the case in the course of history.

In this day and age, many policy makers, practitioners and scholars have started to seriously consider the 'knowledge-based development' of cities and countries as a powerful method of forming the successful future of their nations and cities (Metaxiotis et al., 2010). The field of knowledge-based development faces, nowadays, a big

challenge of making concrete and relevant contributions to the amelioration of societies (such as creating a knowledge society) – rather than traditionally solely promoting competitive advantage for businesses (Yigitcanlar et al., 2008).

The fact that in the recent years major international organisations (such as the European Commission, the World Bank, the United Nations) have started to fund quite large initiatives and programmes for knowledge-based development, and this is a clear indication of the expansion of the promotion efforts of knowledge-based development globally (Yigitcanlar, 2009). For instance, between 2004 and 2006 European Union funded a large R&D programme on ‘Citizens and Governments in a Knowledge-based Society’ focusing on integrating and strengthening European research on the development of a knowledge-based society across Europe (EU Framework Programme 6, 2004). More recently, in 2007 the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) established a ‘Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development’ with an aim of promoting and supporting policies on knowledge-based development in the member countries, and facilitating cooperation in the initiatives related to knowledge-based development between the member countries and other regional initiatives (PWG on KBD, 2007).

Particularly, since early 1980s, the global economy has been changing rapidly in fundamental ways. These changes have brought new reforms in cities and countries and have given birth to new development paradigms, such as knowledge-based urban development (Yigitcanlar, 2010). Further reforms must focus on dramatically improving local, regional, national and international capabilities to generate knowledge and transform it into wealth. Such capabilities should be largely including the establishment of flexible and efficient networks of public and private organisations interacting in a concerted way to generate and adopt knowledge. This ‘regional learning capacity’ is one of the primary vehicles that will help cities and nations to create and innovate in the future.

Knowledge-based development supports cities and countries to increase their competitiveness and develop knowledge cities and a knowledge-based growth path, which will provide them with a greater ability to adapt to globalisation and technological change (Ergazakis et al., 2009). If cities and countries fail to position themselves strongly in this global, knowledge-based ‘marketplace’, they will be increasingly failed to compete and prosper, and provide quality of life for their residents.

In this context, *The International Journal of Knowledge Based Development* has invited research, practice and policy papers for this issue, and selected five contributions that are relevant to the topic of the issue – ‘knowledge-based development across the globe’.

As throughout the last decade the ‘creative class’ thesis has received a significant amount of attention within both academic and policy circles, the first paper of the issue, ‘Examining the role of ‘creative class’ ideas in urban and economic policy formation: the case of Dublin, Ireland’ by Philip Lawton, Enda Murphy and Declan Redmond, focuses on the creative class investigation in Ireland. This paper analyses the role of the ‘creative class’ thesis within recent economic policy formation practice in Dublin, Ireland. The study focuses on two particular areas of policy formation: ‘place-making’ and the ‘formation of new networks of power’.

The second paper of the issue, ‘Spaces of knowledge creation: tracing ‘knowing in action’ in jury-based decision-making processes in Switzerland’ by Jan Silberberger,

Joris Van Wezemael, Sofia Paisiou and Ignaz Strebel, analyses how knowledge is generated in the design field of knowledge-based urban development, particularly in Switzerland. In order to trace how knowledge creation takes place within complex urban realities, the authors apply Amin and Roberts' concept of 'knowing in action'. They elaborate on this model using ethnographic data on the work of a jury board in a design competition. As a result, they propose a spatial conception that uses the modes of 'knowing in action' as its key axes.

Gamal Shehata's paper, 'Forces driving knowledge management in emerging economies: learnings from Egypt', explores forces driving knowledge management in the Egyptian telecommunication industry. The paper presents an attempt to shed light on the issue of principal factors impacting on knowledge management. The results of this research reveal that there are four major categories of factors that drive knowledge management in emerging economies like Egypt. This research paper analyses these categories in detail and provides directions for researchers and practitioners by putting forward invaluable conclusions and recommendations.

The fourth paper, 'Knowledge-based value creation: grasping the intangibility of vice operations in Finland' by Harri Laihonon and Antti Lönnqvist, aims to provide useful insights on the mechanisms of knowledge-based value creation in the context of a modern service economy in Finland. This study explores the intangibility of services through the concepts and models developed by the intellectual capital research stream. The research reported in the paper constructs a framework to account for intangibility as a key characteristic of service by scrutinising ten case studies from Finish organisations.

The final paper of this issue is an interesting practice review paper from Israel – 'WearIT@work: a wearable computing solution for knowledge-based development' by Edna Pasher, Zvika Popper, Hadas Raz and Michael Lawo. In this paper, authors introduce a European Union funded project, which focuses on research and development of wearable computing in seven different work environments. One scenario that was chosen by the authors for a more detailed elaboration was the production scenario, in which blue collar workers were empowered by advanced technology proved to be a good example for the potential of knowledge-based development even on the production floor.

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