
Introduction

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Biographical notes: Wilfred V. Huang has been a Faculty of Alfred University since 1983. He is the George G. Raymond Chair in Family Business and Professor of Management Information Systems at Alfred University. He is the Director of Confucius Institute at Alfred University. His research interests include e-business and entrepreneurship. He has numerous publications in both fields, and is an Associate Editor and Guest Editor of several journals. He is also the Co-chair of the Wuhan International Conference on e-Business.

Juergen Seitz is a Professor for Business Information Systems and Finance, and Head of the Business Information Systems Department at Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Heidenheim, Germany. He is an Editor, Associate Editor and Editorial Board Member of several international journals. He is a member of Gesellschaft für Informatik (German association) and an Executive Council member of Information Resource Management Association, USA. He was and is member of the programme or organising committee of several international conferences, e.g., the 9th Wuhan International Conference on E-Business 2010.

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In May 2009, the *8th E-business Conference* was held in Wuhan, China. In today's global information age, e-business in one of its many facets, is exceedingly important and continues to forge the global and local landscapes. Emerging economies such as China and India, in particular, owe much of their economic success to the prevalence of e-business solutions. Effecting successful e-business solutions requires a confluence of issues to be addressed, too many to ever hope to cover in one special issue. However, we have tried to present a collection of papers that address several of the most pressing issues as follows:

Paper 1: 'Eliminating the cyber 'lemons' problem with the e-reputation in e-commerce market: theoretical model and practice' by Yong Pan. 'Good reputation' has a very important effect in eliminating 'lemons' problem that results from informational asymmetry. Its essence is to establish the trust between the buyers and sellers. Based on the 'lemons' principle put forward by American economist George Akerlof who is one of Nobel Economics Prize Laureates in 2001, this paper sets up an e-reputation model in e-commerce market, and analyses the mechanism of the e-reputation in order to offer a strategic thought for eliminating the cyber 'lemons' problem with the e-reputation.

Paper 2: 'Organisational knowledge transformation and its influencing factors in individual, team and organisational level' by Wei Wu. Organisational knowledge transformation (OKT) is influenced by many factors, usually exists at individual, team, organisational level, which is a comprehensive process from the interaction of various tacit and explicit knowledge elements. Therefore, based on domestic and foreign research literature, this paper firstly puts forward the factors of OKT and their hypotheses in multiple levels, then utilises relevant datum of three questionnaire of every sample firm to examine the influence of those factors on OKT process by empirical analysis.

Paper 3: 'Optimal design of reverse logistics network on e-waste in Shanghai', by Xiaofeng Wang, Kejing Zhang, Bao'an Yang. According to the official statistics, the average growth rate of electronic waste (e-waste) in Shanghai will reach to 13.16% from 2006 to 2015, and its peak will come after 2010, the situation is getting more and more pushing. This paper addresses the design of a multi-echelon reverse logistics network for collecting and processing e-waste which involves locating collection spots and disposal stations, and determining the best strategy for allocating the waste sources to collection spots and deliver the wastes from collection spots to disposal stations.

Paper 4: 'The impact of business-to-business electronic marketplaces: a field study' Shan Wang and Shi Zheng presents research that is a preliminary study of the impact of electronic markets (EMs). Five aspects of EM impacts are studied, including business value of EMs, EM's impact on price and competition, and buyer-supplier relationships, learning effects and satisfaction with EMs.

Paper 5: 'A framework for developing an ergonomic programme to reduce MSD in the workplace' by Cheickna Sylla, Yassir M. Samra, Nitipong Boon-long. This paper proposes a cost/benefit justification framework to build managers' awareness of the full benefits that can be gained from ergonomic initiatives. The particular focus of the paper is targeting musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) problems.

Paper 6: 'The provision of global public goods: a game-theoretic comparison of international environment and knowledge' by P. Ben Chou and Cheickna Sylla. This paper provides a game theory perspective in comparing and contrasting the provision of international environment and knowledge as global public goods (GPGs).

Paper 7: 'The impact of online social networking on learning: a social integration perspective' by Stella Wen Tian, Angela Yan Yu, Douglas Vogel and Ron Kwok discusses issues and impacts of social networking after the development of Web 2.0.

Paper 8, 'Business intelligence approach to support modelling and analysis of complex economic networks' by Xiao Liu and Jianmei Yang proposes a revised business intelligence (BI) framework integrated with network analysis. It discusses concepts and tools of business intelligence that can be used to support modelling and analysis of complex networks, especially complex economic networks which are constructed by multi-entities and multi-ties, are multilevels, multi-dimension, multi-mode and evolving.

Paper 9: 'An empirical research on virtual team's information sharing behaviour' by Xiuzhen Feng and Wenlei Yue examines virtual teams from the perspective of theory of reasoned action (TRA).

Paper 10: 'Economic agent based resource management in ad hoc grid environment' by Li Chunlin and Li Layuan proposes an ad hoc grid resource management system in which the producers and consumers of ad hoc grid resource are modelled as the self-interested decision-makers described in microeconomic theory.

Paper 11: 'Innovating IS management by enhancing knowledge intensive service activities (KISA): the study of two cases in the banking sector' by Paolo Depaoli, Alessandro D'Atri and Marco De Marco examines KISA by presenting two cases taken from the IS banking sector. The first case describes how a deep change in the performance appraisal of employees helped a supplier of outsourced ICT services develop its outsourcing philosophy and market. The other case concerns the design and implementation of the Competence Centre of the Finance Division of a large Italian software company.

Paper 12: 'A Deep Web education resources sharing solution different from China e-Learning Technology Standard' by Zhang Shiming, Qin Zhen and Xu HeXiang. In this paper, a solution based on Deep Web integration technology is designed to realise the Deep Web education resources sharing and solve the defects of China e-Learning Technology Standard.

We trust you enjoy reading this special issue and that it spurs more research to resolve current challenges relating to enabling superior e-business solution to evolve and be embraced.