# Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Alok Mishra is an Associate Professor of Computer and Software Engineering at Atilim University, Ankara, Turkey. His areas of interest and research are software engineering, information system, information and knowledge management and object oriented analysis and design. He has published articles, book chapters and book-reviews related to software engineering and information system in refereed journals, books and conferences. He has received excellence in online education award by U21Global Singapore. He had also served as chief examiner computer science of the International Baccalaureate (IB) organisation. He is recipient of various scholarships including national merit scholarship and department of information technology scholarship of Government of India.

Deepti Mishra is an Assistant Professor of Computer Engineering at Atilim University, Ankara, Turkey. She earned her PhD in Computer Science (Software Engineering) and Masters in Computer Science and Applications. Her research interests include software process improvement, software quality, requirement engineering and databases. She has published many research papers and book chapters at international and national levels. She is the recipient of a Department of Information Technology scholarship of the Government of India.

Global Software Development/Engineering (GSD/GSE) is rapidly becoming popular in this globalisation era due to advances in information and communication technologies. Increased popularity of GSD has resulted in a quite a number of research and industrial studies. In this special issue seven papers from 21 submissions from 10 countries have been selected after peer review process.

Qing Yao, Yuqing Sun and Haiyang Wang introduce a novel approach of Global Software Development (GSD) that is suited for chartered virtual enterprises. By presenting a prototype of Intelligent Platform of Virtual Travel Agency (IPVita) they studied related key problems, such as construction of knowledge base, modelling of software tasks, distribution and integration of tasks. Two algorithms are proposed, namely the task-modelling and the service-merging, to distribute and collect these tasks through web service technique

In his paper 'Process modelling, delegation and control in global software development', Pierre F. Tiako proposes a new approach of process component modelling to be delegated and controlled during its remote performance. The main advantage of this approach is to maintain collaboration among autonomous process-centred software engineering environments during the process performance.

In the paper 'Employee Competency Maturity Model and its application in Global Software Outsourcing', Hazim El-Baz and Imran A. Zualkernan present a model for specifying personnel competencies that adequately captured the competency dimensions of the job-focus, role-focus, and person-focus. In addition, maturity levels of these competencies in each dimension can be specified at one of five levels. The Employee Competency Maturity Model (ECMM) is illustrated which provides a foundation for management of employee competencies based on which firms may make strategic outsourcing decisions in the future.

Jukka Kääriäinen and Antti Välimäki present empirical research regarding the applicability of Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) for the management of distributed software development projects in the context of the automation industry.

Amar Gupta, Nathan T. Denny, Kate O'Toole, Rajdeep Bondade and Damayanti Halder delineate the key challenges that were encountered in the establishment of 24-hour knowledge factories. They present potential

solutions to these problems and describe how some of these solutions had been validated with the concept of demonstration prototype systems.

Fatma Cemile Serçe, Kathleen M. Swigger, Ferda Nur Alpaslan, Robert Brazile, George Dafoulas and Victor Lopez-Cabrera report on the results of two sets of pilot projects; one with students residing in the UK and the USA, and a second with students located in Turkey, Panama, and the USA. Through content analysis, they identify distinct patterns of interactions and examine how these patterns are associated with task, culture, or performance in GSD environment.

In their paper 'A review of non-technical issues in global software development', Deepti Mishra and Alok Mishra present a comprehensive review of non-technical issues associated with GSD and reveal that areas like team dynamics and cross cultural risk management get scant attention and need further studies.

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