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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Tan Yigitcanlar is an Associate Professor at the School of Urban Development, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia, the main foci of his research are advocating and promoting knowledge-based urban development and sustainable urban, infrastructure and transport development in city-regions. He is one of the leading researchers in the field of 'knowledge-based and sustainable urban development', and he has been responsible for research, teaching, training and capacity building programs on urban and regional planning, transport modelling, environmental science, policy analysis and information and communication technologies in respected Turkish, Japanese, Finnish and Australian universities. He is Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*, Chair of the World Capital Institute Events Program and Global Chair of the Knowledge Cities World Summits.

Francisco Javier Carrillo is International Consultant and Professor of Knowledge Management at the Monterrey University of Technology, 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 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 an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*.

Kostas Metaxiotis is an Assistant Professor at the University of Piraeus. Since 2004, he has been undertaking a senior advisor 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 Manager. He is an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*, and the Chair of the World Capital Institute Editorial Program.

Kostas Ergazakis is an Electrical and Computer Engineer at the National Technical University of Athens and also holds a PhD in Knowledge-based Development and Decision Support Systems. He has an extensive professional experience as Research Consultant and Project Manager for projects funded by EU and Greek National Bodies in different fields: formulation of digital/knowledge cities strategies, e-participation, e-organisation techniques, monitoring and evaluation, design and development of management information systems, business development activities. He has published extensively in scientific journals and presented his research outcomes in international conferences. He is an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*.

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The *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development* is planned to serve as a platform for the global knowledge-based development community to exchange academic and professional knowledge and experience, and adopt the learnings in different corners of the globe to achieve a sustainable knowledge-based development. The journal is put together by the executive team of an international think tank (The World Capital Institute – <http://www.worldcapitalinstitute.org>). As an international non-profit organisation, The World Capital Institute aims to further advance the understanding and application of knowledge capital as the most powerful leverage for development in micro (i.e., individuals-neighbourhoods-firms), mezzo (i.e., communities-cities-clusters), macro (i.e., societies-nations), and supra-macro (supranational-global) levels.

In 2009, while forming the editorial board of the journal, each of us in rotation, the executives of the World Capital Institute (Francisco Javier Carrillo, Tan Yigitcanlar and Kostas Metaxiotis) with assistance from Kostas Ergazakis, decided to take the leadership role of the journal for a two-year period. During the first term, Tan Yigitcanlar carried the Editor-in-Chief flag (2010–2011), and the next two years Kostas Metaxiotis will take the role (2012–2013), and this will be followed by Francisco Javier Carrillo's leadership (2014–2015). This rotation will provide this multi-disciplinary journal, every couple of years, a revised perspective and a dynamic nature, and will assign new roles and tasks to the associate editors and editorial board members.

As the founding fathers of the journal, we thank Tan Yigitcanlar for his contributions to the journal, and wish all the best to Kostas Metaxiotis for the next term. We believe

under his leadership and with the diligent support of the new associate editors and editorial board members, the journal will move further delivering its goals and supporting the expansion of the global knowledge-based development community. The new editorial structure and revised goals of the journal will be communicated with the journal audience in detail at the editorial piece of our next issue.

Two years ago while introducing back then the new journal at the editorial piece of this journal's inaugural issue, we emphasised on the inevitable importance and role of knowledge-based development in the rapidly emerging new world order – which is the era of the knowledge economy. Since then, a number of concurrent transformations have been witnessed that started to shape our cities and societies. Among these transformations, that are also considered as major challenges of the quickly globalising world, the followings are particularly worth highlighting:

- 1 social and political change and unrest in both developed post-capitalist (i.e., European, North American and Australasian countries) and developing none fully democratic societies (i.e., the MENA region countries)
- 2 growing dissatisfaction with the structures of the financial systems, overall economic health and stability, and newly introduced stimulus packages (e.g., the need for new mechanisms to better deal with the impacts of global financial crises)
- 3 increasing attention to knowledge generation, innovation, creativity and intellectual capital at firm, city, regional, national and supranational levels (e.g., world-wide acknowledgement of knowledge-based development at different scales)
- 4 skyrocketed and almost uncontrollable urbanisation rates of cities, regions and countries in the developing part of the globe – particularly in Asia (e.g., resulting in many megacities with serious energy, infrastructure and social problems)
- 5 efforts to battle with the results of unsustainable urban development (e.g., to minimise its contribution to the global warming so as to the development not resulting in us facing the severe impacts of climate change).

These transformations and challenges were not only the last wake up call for all nations, but also they were delivering an urgent message to the key people at the forefront of science, policy-making and administration to do everything they can to move their societies and cities towards a more sustainable and knowledge-based development level.

Under the light of these transformations and challenges the pioneering articles of the authors of our eight issues in volume one and two of the journal focused on the different aspects of knowledge-based development to provide useful insights, directions and perhaps to a certain degree a panacea to the key problems of the era of the knowledge economy. As a reflection of seven top quality editorials and 41 articles, the journal continues to serve its purpose to bring the knowledge-based development discussion as a global debate to academic, professional and also community and government platforms.

With this fourth and final issue of the volume two, we are now successfully concluding the second year of the journal. Furthermore, we are getting one more step closer to, as it was hoped for two years ago, the journal to become a significant base for innovative work and dialogue between practitioners and academics dealing with various knowledge-based development issues that inform policy-making and communities at large for the better management of the knowledge-based development of our cities and societies.

This very last issue of the second volume of the *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*, which consists of five academic papers, sheds light on various aspects of the knowledge-based development phenomenon.

The first paper of the issue is a position paper by Tan Yigitcanlar entitled 'Position paper: redefining knowledge-based urban development' and can be seen as an extension of this editorial. The paper provides a clear definition of knowledge-based urban development and sheds light on the not so much elaborated theoretical foundations of this rapidly popularity gaining new development paradigm. The paper, first, provides background information on urban development starting from the ancient civilisations of the world and reaching towards the 22nd century. Following this, the paper presents and discusses the conceptual base of the knowledge-based development of cities and how this concept found successful application ground in different parts of the world. The paper, lastly, introduces and elaborates how relevant theories support the conceptualisation of this rapidly emerging paradigm. It also provides the following redefinition of the term: "KBUD is the new development paradigm of the knowledge era that aims to bring economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, a just socio-spatial order and good governance to cities, and produces a city purposefully designed to encourage the production and circulation of knowledge in an environmentally conserved, economically secure, socially just and well-governed human setting, a knowledge city".

The second paper, 'Absorptive capacity and innovation in the triplehelix model', by Cathy Garner and Philip Ternouth, explores the role of absorptive capacity in determining innovation capabilities at two levels. Firstly, the paper seeks to examine the concept of absorptive capacity at the firm-level by highlighting the dynamic nature of the concept in relation to the university-business dyad of the triple helix model. Secondly, the paper examines the role of absorptive capacity and the triple helix partnership in facilitating the successful development of local innovation systems. The paper, then, synthesises a number of research studies on the topic of absorptive capacity and importantly tests their conceptual and theoretical propositions against case study exemplars and practice-based evidence to examine the relevance of the concept for practitioner action in business such as university knowledge exchange and local economic development.

The third paper of the issue entitled 'Innovacities: in search of breakthrough innovations producing world-class performance', by Carlos Scheel, examines and identifies the inflection points where the cities made great transformations in terms of world-class performance. The paper identifies the enabling mechanisms that made the transitions possible that produced large-scale changes and created interdependent spaces in which citizens, social communities, businesses and their local natural environments have become articulated into a harmonious and balanced regional development. The paper, then, concludes by emphasising the importance of innovation strategies that support holistic development as the effective generators of wealth for most of the successful regions by bringing together smart infrastructures, aligned public policies, proper entrepreneurial environments, and creative societies with the capacity to produce sustainable ecosystem environments supported by their visionaries, talented and highly skilled specialists, policy-makers, technologists, academic leaders, designers, creative people, and innovative managers, all of whom are part of a robust system of capitals that can generate and share a sustainable wealth for a region to become economically competitive, socially balanced and ecologically sustainable.

The fourth paper authored by Rodney Jensen, 'The pursuit of better public administration and planning for the creative industries – planning collaboratively for sustainable creative quarters', scrutinises the way in which creative industries could be better facilitated via the local government policy. The paper undertakes a concise review of the international systems of planning for comparison with Australia, where there is a continued reliance recorded on land use planning in most cases in the country. The paper considers the embryonic attempts by local councils to implement place-based planning, and a reference is made to the enterprise zoning system, and the business improvement system as alternatives to traditional land use planning. The author sees both these approaches as highly focused on economic growth and sustainability, and yet run the risk of widening inequities within a regional context. The paper concludes with a closer examination of a possible business improvement system implementation model in the context of Sydney metropolis that provides a greater understanding of the issues from the perspective of reform in governance and also informs the likely problems and opportunities of the business improvement system model in an actual urban context.

The last paper of the issue, 'Civic science, community participation and planning for knowledge-based development: analysis of Sydney Metropolitan Strategy', by Krishna K. Shrestha and Zeenat Mahjabeen, aims to investigate the opportunities for community participation in urban policies, which is a vital step to obtain and realise community knowledge, within the context of Sydney metropolitan strategy. The paper examines the historical development of planning policy approaches to community participation in Sydney metropolis, as well as draws upon the current research. The paper also focuses on the analysis of Sydney metropolitan strategy to identify the opportunities for participation of local communities. The paper advances the argument about what has been characterised as the lost opportunity – the failure of the government to effectively engage with communities to realise the benefit from a civic science. The paper concludes by highlighting the need to reframe the relationship between citizens, policy makers and scientists to bring about effective community participation that promotes a successful knowledge-based urban planning practice in Sydney metropolis.