
Introduction

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Biographical notes: Wilfred Vincent Huang received his MS and PhD in Industrial Engineering from State University of New York at Buffalo, and BS in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University. He 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 Director of Confucius Institute at Alfred University and Coordinator of SAP programme in Alfred University. He is also a Certified Quality Engineer (CQE) of American Society of Quality. His research interests include e-business and entrepreneurship. He has published articles in *Information & Management*, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *International Journal of Organizational Analysis*, *Family Business Review*, *European Journal of Operations Research*, *International Journal of Computers and Industrial Engineers*, *Decision Support Systems*, etc. He has been co-chairing the Wuhan International Conference on e-Business which takes place in Wuhan, China every summer since 2000.

Juergen Seitz received his Diploma in Business Administration and Business Information Systems from the University of Cooperative Education Stuttgart, nowadays, Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Stuttgart, Germany, and in Economics from the University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim. He received his PhD from Viadrina European University, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. He is Professor for Business Information Systems and Finance, and Chair of the Business Information Systems Department at Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Heidenheim, Germany. He is editor, associate editor and editorial board member of several international journals. He is member of Gesellschaft für Informatik (German association) and executive council member of Information Resource Management Association, USA. He was and is a member of the programme or organising committee of several international conferences, e.g., the 10th Wuhan International Conference on E-Business 2011.

Nilmini Wickramasinghe was appointed in December 2009 as a Professor to RMIT University's School of Business IT and Logistics after being a professor in the US for 15 years. She researches and teaches in several areas within information systems including knowledge management, e-commerce and m-commerce, and organisational impacts of technology with particular focus on the applications of these areas to healthcare and thereby effecting superior healthcare delivery. He is well published with more than 200

referred scholarly articles, several books and an encyclopaedia. He is the Editor-in-Chief of two scholarly journals: *International Journal of Networking and Virtual Organisations (IJNVO)* – <http://www.inderscience.com/ijnvo>) and *International Journal of Biomedical Engineering and Technology (IJBT)* – <http://www.inderscience.com/ijbt>) and the Springer Series Editor for Healthcare Delivery in the Information Age.

China has become a very important economic and business hub in SE Asia and its impact has and continues to have significant and far reaching influence on a global scale. Today, the internet and e-commerce are now driving many initiatives in China and the surrounding countries in SE Asia. If we are to be truly operating in a global and interconnected business environment it behoves us to gain a greater appreciation of the dynamics, drivers and developments with regard to e-business in this important region. To meet this objective, we present in this special issue a collection of selected papers initially presented in May 2010 at the 9th Wuhan International E-Business conference. We choose this miscellany of papers as collectively they serve to provide a picture of many of the critical developments that are occurring in this region as well as serving to facilitate discussion and discourse regarding important considerations, barriers and facilitators.

The papers are as follows:

- ‘Empirical research on information technology value’ by Qi examines the value of key aspects in technology management of 100 electric enterprises.
- ‘The impacts of customer participation and company reputation on customer-company identification’ by Xu, Wang, Cui and Su.
- ‘A method of detecting online public opinions based on the query log of search engine’ by Li and Zhu.
- ‘A web-based Hong Kong tourism demand forecasting system’ by Song, Gao, Zhang and Lin.
- ‘Path analysis of IT application maturity’ by Peng and Zhang studies the influence of enterprise core competence on IT application and maturity from the perspectives of management institution and process management capabilities.
- ‘Analysis and thinking of failed Japanese ITO cases in China’ by Chen, Yang and Hong examines issues relating to Japanese ITO projects outsourced to China.
- ‘Environmental impact assessment of life-cycle building products using the evidence reasoning approach’ by Yang, Yu and Jiang discusses issues relating to the consumption of resources and impact on the environment.
- ‘The research on the process of new service development in logistics enterprises’ by Zhou and Wang provides insights regarding service enterprises new services developments and its importance to R&D.
- ‘Internationalisation, vertical integration and performance: a case study of BOE’ by Huang, Xu and Shi examines the relationship between internationalisation, vertical integration and performance with especial focus on cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

- ‘Antecedents and consequences of e-supply chain coordination capability for enterprises: an empirical study in China’ by Lu, Zhao and Chi.
- ‘Application of BP neural network in evaluating e-business performance for service industry’ by Chi and Zhao.
- ‘Empirical analysis of the trade between Liaoning and Japan as well as effects of absorbing Japan’s direct investment’ by Zhang, Jin and Wei discusses the issues of the Liaoning province and trade with one of its important economic trade partner Japan.
- ‘Hybrid artificial neural network and statistical model for forecasting project total duration in earned value management’ by Li and Lui.
- The final paper ‘Referral service of infomediary in B2C supply chain’ by Chen and Yao considers issues relating to an infomediary providing demand referral to a retailer in a B2C supply chain.

We hope you enjoy this collection of papers and it serves to increase your interest and awareness of important activities relating to e-business in other regions of the world.