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## 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 the Director of Confucius Institute at Alfred University and the coordinator of SAP Program in Alfred University. He is also a Certified Quality Engineer (CQE) of the American Society of Quality. His research interests include e-business and entrepreneurship.

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 a Professor of 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 member of the programme or organising committee of several international conferences, e.g., the 10th Wuhan International Conference on e-Business 2011.

Nilmini Wickramasinghe is the Epworth Chair Health Information Management and 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 encyclopedia. He is the Editor-in-Chief of two scholarly journals: *International Journal of Networking and Virtual Organisations (IJNVO)* and *International Journal of Biomedical Engineering and Technology (IJBET)* and the Springer Series editor for Healthcare Delivery in the Information Age.

The papers that make up this special issue are a representative collection of the leading topics presented at the 10th Wuhan International Conference on e-Business.

The annual Wuhan International Conference on e-Business is an affiliated conference of the Association for Information Systems (AIS) and in 2011 celebrated its tenth year. This conference seeks to promote and facilitate academic networking among researchers and practitioners from around the world who are concerned about the fields of information systems, about the global and corporate financial issues, about the necessity for continuous innovation and about the impact e-business continues to make on the global and national landscapes.

The conference aims at presenting innovative research, solutions and approaches which show the internet as a productive and efficient alternative for global commerce. Whether running an e-business or transforming a business into e-business, it is to be expected that there will be challenges ranging from technological to behavioural issues, from marketing to privacy issues, from effectiveness to security issues. In addition, there are integration issues for the management of technology, management of supply chain, management of human resources and management of intelligence. Further, it is necessary to disentangle any entrepreneurial opportunity connected with the rise of e-business; the emergence of the global digital economy and its impact on commerce, and business models in e-commerce. In today's global world, one cannot afford not to have strategic planning; we need to leverage technologies and manage processes of services and products for e-business.

Specifically, the conference supports seven major tracks with key topic areas as follows:

- *e-business* – topics include e-business strategy and behavioural issues, e-business evaluation, B2B e-business impacts, e-commerce, e-security, electronic marketplace and economics, business value of e-business, econometric models of e-commerce development, global e-commerce diffusion, adoption and use
- *extended issues in e-business* – topics include e-marketing, mobile business, e-health, e-government, tourism e-business, e-business policies and regulations
- *information technology development* – topics include disaster management information technology, technology transfer and globalisation, emerging technology management, services computing, information security/privacy, information technology and engineering, human-computer interaction, decision technologies, legal aspects of IT
- *management information systems* – topics include adoption models, social and behavioural aspects of information systems, web-based information systems and applications, collaboration systems and technology, cross-organisational and cross-border IS/IT, knowledge management, enterprise resource planning (ERP), business value of information systems, web-based education and training
- *innovation management* – topics include entrepreneurship, SME's development strategy, human resource management, strategic management, business process management, business process re-engineering, innovation and change management, environmental management and IT

- *operations and services management* – topics include supply chain management, distribution logistics, inter-organisation cooperation and management, customer relationship management (CRM), personalisation and content management, quality management, project management, life cycle management, IT in designing operations, IT in managing operations
- *international finance* – topics include global investment banking, national development banking, cross-border risk, emerging market risk, money and banking, cost control and international economics.

This miscellany of papers which makes up this special issue represents a snap shot of the top papers presented at the 2011 Wuhan International Conference on e-Business in May 2011, Wuhan, China which have been extended and adapted for inclusion in this special issue. Over the ten years this conference has been held it is a delight to us to see the development of research in this key area but also the application of many of these research ideas into business operations both within China, which have helped strengthen this key emerging economy, as well as throughout many industry sectors globally. For us, the special editors and conference committee members, it is pleasing to see the development in discourse and discussion into many critical areas all relevant to facilitate and foster our understanding and appreciation of networking and virtual organisations in today's 21st century.

We hope you enjoy reading the papers in this special issue at least as much as we have enjoyed compiling this issue and we also hope it might be the spark to inspire you also to research further into many of these key areas.