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## Preface

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**Biographical notes:** Osama Sam Al-Kwifi is an Assistant Professor of Management at Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University. He was a Visiting Scholar at Richard Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario. He received his PhD in Management of Technology from the University of Waterloo, and MSc in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Alberta. Before returning to the university to complete his PhD, he worked at the University of Toronto developing medical applications, and at several medical companies designing and evaluating new products for global markets. His research has been published in various refereed journals and conference proceedings, including *Journal for Global Business Advancement*, *Journal for International Business and Entrepreneurship Development*, *International Journal of Technology Marketing* and *Journal of Business and Industrial Marketing*.

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This special issue of the *Journal for Global Business Advancement (JGBA)* includes manuscripts of some of the presentations at the *9th International Conference of the Academy for Global Business Advancement (AGBA)*, held on 19–21 March 2012 at Ajman University of Science and Technology (AUST), United Arab Emirates. Since its first meeting in 2004, the leadership of the AGBA has been remarkably active in its mission in motivating scholars and academics around the world to share their knowledge and expertise, with a special emphasis on those coming from developing countries and emerging economies.

Currently, AGBA is acting as a global platform to connect academics and scholars at business schools across the developing countries to communicate with the developed world for mutual prosperity. This collaboration is an essential factor to enhance the globalisation process and support numerous opportunities to scholars in emerging countries to get recognition, and disseminate new knowledge, keeping in mind that most published studies focus on data collected from developed countries, whereas little has been explored to investigate the issues and challenges in the developing countries, and their influence on the globalisation process.

Exchanging new knowledge from different parts of the world and creating a practical value from it require having people from various disciplines, to share the significance of their research and how it can be used in practice. Obviously, this will need to have support from corporate leaders, governmental officials, entrepreneurs and consultants, in addition to the main support coming from academic scholars.

The topics covered in this special issue include a wide range of issues in practical business domains, such as financing, marketing, human resources, healthcare, innovation and knowledge transfer. The majority explore questions that reflect important challenges faced by academics and practitioners in developing countries, to fill gaps in our understanding and propose alternative solutions. The implications of the selected topics have a significant impact on managers and policy-makers to enhance the performance of organisations and make them globally competitive.