
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Michael K. Fung is currently an Associate Professor of Economics at the School of Accounting and Finance, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His research interest includes financial economics, industrial organisation and interdisciplinary research. He has published over 20 papers at highly ranked journals in economics, finance and operation research disciplines. He was an Examiner for the Chartered Institute of Logistic and Transport (HK) and served on the Banking and Finance Industry Training Board of the Hong Kong SAR Government.

Bruno S. Sergi is currently teaching international economics at the University of Messina. Concurrently, he is an Associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. He is involved in coaching two networks of trade-union economic experts: the SEE TU Economic Experts' Network and the NIS TU Economic Experts' Network, both of which are under the framework of the Pan-European Regional Council of the International Trade Union Confederation (Brussels). His primary research interest is the political economy of transition countries and the economics of emerging markets. He acknowledges financial support from the University of Messina (PRA 2008–2009).

The papers published in this *IJEPEE* thematic issue have been presented at the 2013 SIBR-UniKL Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research, which was held on 15–16 February 2013, at the Royale Bintang Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research and the University of Kuala Lumpur Business School jointly organised the conference. The conference theme was 'Rethinking business and economic issues from interdisciplinary perspectives: evolutions and new solutions'. The papers appearing in this thematic issue were peer reviewed following the procedure outlined as follows. The guest editors initially evaluated all manuscripts nominated for the special issues. Papers rejected at this stage were outside the aims and scope of the journal or were insufficiently original. Papers that met the minimum criteria were forwarded to an expert for further review. This special issue

employed double blind reviewing, where both the referee and author(s) remained anonymous throughout the process.

This *IJEPEE* thematic issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in contemporary issues in real and financial sectors. Specifically, Achsanita Ruziqah investigated the impact of credit and liquidity risk on bank's financial performance in Indonesia. Using the multivariate GARCH BEKK approach, Sorin Gabriel Anton and Marie Ochem estimated and analysed the country risks of eight Central and Eastern European countries by calculating their time-varying betas. Moreover, Monika Golonka conceptualised and analysed interfirm collaboration phenomenon in among ICT firms in Poland. In addition, Mawuko Dza et al. conducted an in-depth study on current procurement reforms in Africa from the Ghanaian context. The emergence and development of the above interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue. A second set of papers strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in global economic development, business ethics and management. Specifically, M.M. Haris Aslam and Sarwar M. Azhar in their study highlighted a wide range of challenges posed by globalisation to developing countries. In the context of entrepreneurs working in Milan, Ivan De Noni et al. studied the role of immigrant entrepreneurship as a potential source of sustainable development. Moreover, Hifza Mahmood Rana et al. examined various competencies and predictors that may indicate leadership potential within an individual. In addition, Nathaniel T. Edwards investigated the trend of worker autonomy in the increasingly globalised economy. The emergence and development of the above interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.