
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 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 economic policy at the University of Messina. He serves as a Centre Associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. At the University of Messina, he is also Chairman of the PhD Programme in Economic Sciences and Quantitative Methods (2011–2016). Since 2009, he has coached 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. His primary research interest is international macroeconomics and the political economy of transition countries. He acknowledges financial support from the University of Messina (PRA 2008–2009).

The papers published in this *IJEPEE* special issue have been presented at the 2013 SIBR-Thammasat Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research, which was held on June 6–8, 2013, at the Emerald Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The conference was jointly organised by The Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research and The Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University. The conference theme was 'Rethinking business and economic issues from interdisciplinary perspectives: evolutions and new solutions'.

The papers appearing in this special 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. As a result of this reviewing process, four papers were accepted for publication in this special issue.

This *IJEPEE* special issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in socio-economic impacts of government policies and firm strategies. Specifically, B. Chandra Mohan Patnaik et al. attempted to understand the hopes and expectation of the customers of the Odisha Gramin Bank after reforms. Watchai Charunwatthana and Siripen Supakankunti examined the overall intensity effect of payment change on the average length of stay at Thai Public Hospitals. Kurniyati Indahsari et al. presented determinants of individual behaviour in accomplishing ZISWA through Amil institution in Indonesia. Moreover, using system dynamics modelling approach, Pard Teekasap studied the effect of intellectual property rights (IPR) on the productivity and economy of Thailand. Putu Mahardika Adi Saputra examined the technical efficiency of Indonesian manufacturing industry by estimating a stochastic production Frontier and the constant returns to scale output-oriented data envelopment analysis approach. N. Prasanna et al. analysed the real impact of MGNREGA in the State of Tamil Nadu, India. In addition, Ritab Al-Khoury studied the factors affecting foreign direct investment in 16 Middle East and North African countries. The emergence and development of the above interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.