Editorial: Diversity and convergence in knowledge-based development

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Biographical notes: Francisco Javier Carrillo is a Professor of Knowledge Management and an international consultant at Tecnológico de Monterrey, where he founded the Center for Knowledge Systems (http://www.sistemasdeconocimiento.org) in 1992. He developed the capital systems model which has been applied to consultancy projects in several countries and is the basis of an extensive KM graduate curriculum. He is the President of the World Capital Institute (worldcapitalinstitute.org), Honorary President of the Ibero-American Community for Knowledge Systems (http://www.iberoamericana.org) as well a founding member of the New Club of Paris, and seats on the editorial boards of several international journals and KM-related professional organisations. He was a Guest Editor for eight years of the annual *Journal of Knowledge Management* special issue on Knowledge-Based Development. He is a member of the Mexican Academy of Science and the National Research System and is a regular keynote speaker at the international circuit.

Natural and conventional cycles elicit assessment and improvement actions as they get fulfilled. For *IJKBD*, V5 involves a new shift in editorship role transfer. Tan Yigitcanlar undertook the first bi-annual period (2010 to 2011), followed by Kostas Metaxiotis who recently completed the second period (2012 to 2013). This author recently undertook the role for the period 2014 to 2015, giving continuity to the work of the editorial team.

During its first four years, *IJKBD* has established itself as a main reference in the discipline. With the only exception of the foundational issue including V1 N1 and V1 N2, all volumes have included the four issues resulting from a quarterly publishing. At the time of writing, a total of 160 papers had been submitted, from which 66 have been published and 65 rejected. A schedule of two regular issues and two special issues a year has been maintained and is likely to continue. The editorial scope of the journal is explained in the official Inderscience website, including topics covered, objectives, readership and contents. The journal is currently indexed in Scopus and other academic indices and lists. A renewed editorial board is providing both editorial continuity and new momentum to the journal's young age.

Also, the association with first-class annual conferences such as the Knowledge Cities World Summit (KCWS) (https://www.tlu.ee/en/KCWS2014) and the International Forum on Knowledge Asset Dynamics (IFKAD) (http://www.knowledgeasset.org/IFKAD/) and the International Conference on Innovation and Knowledge Management in Asia Pacific

IKMAP (http://ikmap2014.com) amongst others, brings fresh perspectives from around the world through selected papers.

This regular issue carries a set of papers representative of current trends in the field. The first paper, by Serena Viola, comes from the IFKAD2013 selection. This paper adds to the growing realisation on the extent to which historical sites and ancient city sectors can be capitalised in multiple ways. Beyond the protection for patrimonial and historic purposes and their touristic exploitation as relics from the past, new perspectives look at more dynamic and ambitious ways of incorporating these sites into urban development as well a basis for identity consolidation and social integration. By looking at innovative approaches to support the implementation of performances in ancient cities, Viola opens up new ways to leverage knowledge-based urban development. The paper presents the case of the ancient city centre of Salerno, Italy, as a laboratory for a 'network approach' to technological innovation serving an open set of collective values and leading to a creative and dynamic reconfiguration of public spaces' functions while best preserving the cultural heritage.

The second paper also coming from IFKAD2013, by Ingi Runar Edvardsson from the University of Iceland School of Business, deals with another vibrant topic in knowledge-based development (KBD): the challenge faced by all universities and higher education institutions to re-define themselves in terms of their capacity to leverage KBD in their communities. Furthermore, Edvardsson's paper challenges the prominence of big metropolitan areas in KBD literature by looking at the case of a small university in a small city in Iceland. While the Most Admired Knowledge City Awards (MAKCi) include a dual award: one for the largest Knowledge Metropolis and another for the comparatively smaller knowledge city-regions, these are still too large as compared with urban centres below one million inhabitants. In this sense, Edvardsson makes an important point in emphasising the great relevance on smaller cities for regional and national development. Even further, a recent paper at *IJKBD* (Batra et al., Vol. 4, No. 3, pp.222–244) looked at the village as unit of analysis and showed how these smaller and often deprived communities can be incorporated into KBD in India by building on their endogenous capacities. Edvardsson's work is of particular significance these days in which the role of the university is brought once more into question, amidst new challenges to the institutional and financial viability of higher education as it stands now. The report on the integration of the University of Akureyri into the regional development of Northern Iceland through a successful KBD experience, contributes to the understanding of how the future of universities is inextricably associated to that of the communities providing the reference to their value and significance.

Also deriving from IFKAD2013, the paper by Martine Gadille and Alena Siarheyeva looks at the all-important social processes in the implementation of KBD initiatives. By studying a collaborative project developed in the context of a regional innovation policy in France, Gadille and Siarheyeva portray the evolution of a community-based open innovation network. This kind of initiative exemplifies the emerging field of knowledge markets as one of the most dynamic and innovative in the KBD arena. The prevailing accountancy view of organisational intellectual capital is overwhelmed by the opportunities and challenges of mobilising collective IC. Acting as participant observers and co-designers, the authors gained substantial insights into the dynamics of the emergence, construction and consolidation of this initiative. Throughout this exercise, they identified governance design, intellectual property rights, leadership attributes,

organisational blend of participants as well as a flexible and empowering framework as key success factors.

On a similar process, although at a different scale and in a different part of the world, the following paper by Khaled Youssef, Mamdouh Sobaihi and Amro Taibah reports advancements in designing and implementing a KBD model for the City of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. Several of the issues raised by the three former papers somehow resonate in this one: the blending of cultural inheritance and technical innovation, the integration of universities into regional development, and the engagement of communities in KBD processes. Youssef, Sobaihi and Taibah identify key agents in building knowledge cities: universities, local and federal governments, the private sector and, prominently, the citizens. They propose a collaboration model where the role of each of this knowledge agents is better understood. A number of guidelines for the case of Jeddah as a knowledge city are outlined:

1   a strategic vision to guide the collaboration model

2   the involvement of all stakeholders, agencies and bodies

3   the creation of a body for facilitating collaboration.

These are integrated into a knowledge cycle model of collaboration.

Finally, the paper by Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay and Amina Yagoubi, also selected from IFKAD2013, looks at the role of intermediary organisations within knowledge sharing and development processes in the careers of creative fashion designers in Montreal. This work deals with another lively topic in KBD: the interdependence of creative industries and knowledge cities as a novel development context. Their study centres on the role of knowledge sharing in reducing risk and supporting career development for fashion designers. In the context of Montreal's efforts to consolidate a fashion cluster, the authors draw on creative economy and career theory concepts to develop a framework for understanding risk, networking and relational proximity in the creative design career. By capturing and analysing the views of designers, intermediary organisations and government departments, they identified a number of key elements for establishing a fertile ground for creative careers and the fashion cluster in Montreal:

1   strong social capital and dynamic environment

2   funding and relational schemes to support those in creative design careers, particularly at an early stage

3   assurance of targeted knowledge dissemination and resources to all designers

4   fluid communication within the fashion cluster.

Through this study, Tremblay and Yagouby further the understanding of risk analysis and career development in knowledge-intensive and creative settings.

This regular issue also brings the opportunity to thank all those editorial board members who served the journal through December 2013 and to welcome those who renewed their commitment and those new members who have joined in 2014. With a reinforced editorial board, *IJKBD* looks forward to best serve the global KBD community and consolidate itself as a leading source in the field.