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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Veland Ramadani is an Associate Professor at South-East European University, Republic of Macedonia where he teaches both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in entrepreneurship and small business management. His research interests include entrepreneurship, small business management and venture capital investments. He authored around 50 research articles and 11 text-books. He also serves as a member of editorial and reviewer board of several international journals. He was engaged by the President of Republic of Macedonia as a member of experts' committee to analyse the economical, technological and juridical conditions for establishing techno-parks and as a trainer by Ministry of Economy in Macedonia.

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The call for papers for this guest edition endorsed the collection of papers examining entrepreneurship and business from an Islamic perspective. Considering how vigorously the international business environment is evolving in which culture and religion are playing an important role in developing relationship (Dana, 2009, 2010), Islamic entrepreneurship and business is becoming a 'hot' research field. Islam as a religion emphasises the significance of being engaged in business activities that improves the whole society as a whole. Every Muslim is expected to make a living in accordance with the beliefs of the Qur'an and Shari'ah laws. Thus, by engaging in entrepreneurial activities, Muslims can fulfil their religious obligations to please Allah. The achievements of business in Islam mainly rely on the combination of ethical, social, environmental and economic factors in agreement with Islamic Law (Hamid and Sa'ari, 2011; Kayed and Hassan, 2010; Davis, 2013). Islam as a religion does contour the

organisation in numerous ways, focusing on all areas of business such as strategy, organisation, human resources, finance, and marketing they can be shaped from an Islamic perspective (Ramadani et al., 2014; Raza, 1999; Yaakub, 2011). When it comes to the organisational strategy, it is not only expected to be profitable but also in alignment with worldly socio-economic welfare as well as spiritual growth. Products such as pork, alcohol or gambling are prohibited. On the other hand, practices such as false measuring or lying are not allowed and others such as fulfilling contracts are obligatory. This just proves the sincerity and the purity of promoting entrepreneurship from an Islamic perspective.

The section below briefly introduces the content of the corresponding papers:

- 1 'The context of Islamic entrepreneurship and business: concept, principles and perspectives' by Veland Ramadani, Léo-Paul Dana, Vanessa Ratten and Sadush Tahiri

This study aims to present the approach of Islam as a religion towards entrepreneurship and business. Islamic entrepreneurship is becoming a hot topic for research since the role of culture and religion are deeply embedded in the international business environment. The themes that are researched and discussed in this particular paper are thee taqwa, halal and haram; knowledge and entrepreneurs; innovativeness and risk-taking, proper usage of resources, financing and Islamic perspectives on ethics and social responsibility, which are part on the Holy Qur'an verses and the Muhammad's (S.A.W) Hadith (teachings and traditions). Furthermore, recommendations and suggestions for further are provided on how to handle the growing interest in this topic area of business management study.

- 2 'Entrepreneurship within the framework of Shari'ah' by Wafica Ali Ghoul

This research paper provides an indication of entrepreneurship within the framework of Shari'ah. Through the interception of Shari'ah law and entrepreneurial activities the paper signifies the impact that Islam has in different areas of entrepreneurial activities such as operation, financing, business forms, innovation, consumerism, female entrepreneurship and social interest.

- 3 'The history of an Islamic entrepreneurship: achieving exporting-network leadership through religious legitimacy' by Julio Araujo Carneiro-da-Cunha, Matheus Graciani dos Santos, Leandro Januário de Souza, Nawfâl Assa Mossa Alssabak and Flavio Romero Macau

The main objective of this paper is to emphasise the role of CDIAL in exporting Halal poultry to the Middle Eastern Islamic Markets. The main focus of this study is on identifying variables that explain the Islamic entrepreneurship construct in a successful experience through a theoretical model with 12 variables that characterises the Islamic entrepreneurship. Once the five periods of CDIAL's evolution were identified the study shows that environments such as social, political and economic influence in some level the prominence of Islamic entrepreneurship variables.

- 4 'Effects of Islamic entrepreneurship mind programming on entrepreneurial performance through entrepreneurial motivation' by Moha Asri Abdullah, Zulkarnain Kedah and Md. Aftab Anwar

This paper through a survey data of 201 respondents investigates characteristics and the crucial components of Islamic entrepreneurial mind programming and how to deploy new psychological method to estimate consciousness that increases entrepreneurial performance through entrepreneurial motivation amongst entrepreneurs in Malaysia. The research outcome shows a significant positive relationship between Islamic entrepreneurial mind programming and entrepreneurial performance mediated by entrepreneurial motivation, leading to a conclusion that Islamic entrepreneurial mind programming is a very crucial factor together with other factors that have influenced entrepreneurial motivation

- 5 'Planning for succession in family businesses: a comparison of Arab/Islamic and US practices' by Matthew C. Sonfield, Robert N. Lussier and Josiane Fahed-Sreih

The main objective of this research is the comparison of a sample of American (United States) family businesses with a sample of Arab/Islamic family businesses from Egypt, Kuwait and Lebanon, concerning the level of preparation to which top management has formulated specific plans for the future succession of junior family members into top management positions. The sample number is 485 questionnaire's and based on results from the ANCOVA analysis it is shown that Arab/Islamic family businesses' top managers engage in the formulation of such succession plans to a statistically significant greater degree than do the US managers. Furthermore, the differences of the two cultural dimensions are assessed which backs up the research outcomes.

- 6 'Islamic marketing at the bottom of the pyramid: factors affecting customer's satisfaction among the poor in Islamic pawnshop in Indonesia' by Permata Wulandari and Salina Hj Kassim

The study tries to enquire the service quality and its impact to customer satisfaction within the Islamic Pawnshop in Indonesia. Through SERVQUAL model a data of 300 Indonesian Islamic pawnshop borrowers in Jakarta, Bogor, Tangerang and Bekasi (Jabodetabek) areas was analysed. The main findings of the study were that responsiveness has the biggest positive impact to customer satisfaction, while empathy has a negative impact to customer satisfaction. On the other hand, service quality, namely reliability, assurance and tangibles have no significant impact to customer satisfaction.

- 7 'Islamic financing sources of entrepreneurial ventures in a non-Islamic country: challenges and benefits' by Gadaf Rexhepi and Nadire Ramadani.

The main objective of this study is to offer a comprehensive understanding of the main sources of Islamic financial principles and the characteristics of Islamic Financing practices. The main benefits gained through the Islamic Financial System are that entrepreneurs can deal with a financial system that is in compliance with Shari'ah and ethical values.

- 8 'The determinants of the profitability of Islamic banks: a cross-sectional study from Asia and Africa' by Mohammad Ashraful Ferdous Chowdhury and Mohamed Eskandar Shah Mohd Rasid

This paper aims at investigating through the empirical research the factors that influence the profitability of the Islamic banking sector in Asian and African region. Through the ordinary least square (OLS) method on annual data of 2013, 44 Islamic Banks from the Asian and African region were compared in order to identify the determinants of the profitability of Islamic banks operating in the respective regions. The measurement of the financial performance of these Islamic banks is done through using return on assets (ROA) indicators. The findings of these studies show that Islamic bank-specific factors such as the operating efficiency ratios (cost to income ratio) is negatively and statistically significant to the profitability of the Islamic bank's performance, while equity financing is positive and statistically significant to the to the profitability of Islamic banks.

- 9 'Women entrepreneurship in Islamic perspective: a driver for social change' by Grisna Anggadwita, Hendrati Dwi Mulyaningsih, Veland Ramadani and M. Yahya Arwiyah

The aim of this research paper is to highlight the role of women entrepreneurs from an Islamic standpoint, in Indonesia. A thorough overview is provided regarding the concepts and dimensions of entrepreneurial women from the Islamic point of view considering both aspect of the religion the social and the spiritual in Indonesia. A survey of 150 of Moslem women entrepreneurs was conducted with the aim of finding out the problems and barriers faced by Moslem women entrepreneurs, as well as their motivation to choose a career of entrepreneurship.

- 10 'Social entrepreneurship and Islamic philanthropy' by Jasem Almarri and John Meewella

The purpose of this paper is to study the entrepreneurs and organisations that are significantly influenced by social motives instead of being purely economically driven. However, the main focus of this research is looking at social entrepreneurship in the Islamic context, by assessing the one key socio-economic institution, zakat, in the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait.

- 11 'Effects of business Jihad on entrepreneurs' ethical behaviour and corporate social responsibility: a qualitative study', by Zulkarnain Kedah, Isa Mohammed Adamu, Mohd Ali Bahari Abdul Kadir and Md. Aftab Anwar

The main objective of this research is to provide a comprehensive view to the word Jihad which has been highly misconceived and misused, however, the main focus is on investigating the effects of business Jihad on entrepreneurs' ethical behaviour and commitment to social responsibility. The research was done through a qualitative research using in-depth interview where nine experienced, respected and successful Muslim entrepreneurs were selected and participated in the research. The research finding reveal the devotion to the philosophy of business Jihad has significant positive impact on entrepreneurs' ethical behaviour and social responsibility stance. Moreover, the finding also emphasised that the participants' engagement in these positive virtues is based on their religious values rather than economic benefits.

In summary, this special issue is a diverse collection of papers treating Islamic entrepreneurship and business from different dimensions. We, the guest editors, would

like to gratefully thank the distinguished Professor Léo-Paul Dana, the Editor-in-Chief of this journal, for his inspiration and endless support; the colleagues who helped us during the selection and evaluation process and all authors who showed interest to this specific context and special issue.

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