Editorial

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Biographical notes: Saqib Saeed is an Assistant Professor at the Computer Science Department at Bahria University Islamabad, Pakistan. He holds a PhD in Information Systems from University of Siegen, Germany, and a Masters in Software Technology from Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences, Germany. He is also a Certified Software Quality Engineer from the American Society of Quality. His research interests lie in the areas of human-centred computing, computer supported cooperative work, empirical software engineering and ICT4D.

Sameer Abufardeh is an Assistant Professor at Department of Computer Science and Operations Research at North Dakota State University, USA. He holds a PhD in Software Engineering and a Master in Computer Science. His areas of interest include software engineering information retrieval and data mining. He has more than eight years of teaching experience and seven years of industry experience.

Zaigham Mahmood is a Researcher at the University of Derby, UK and Professor Extraordinaire at the North West University, S. Africa. He is the author/editor of eight books; four in the area of cloud computing and the other four focusing on e-government developments. This is in addition to more than 100 other published articles. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of E-government Studies and Best Practices*. He has also organised numerous special sessions and conference tracks at international conferences.

Information systems (ISs) play a crucial role in decision making by providing appropriate and timely information, data analysis, and distribution support for managers. IS development is a complex activity which requires the application of innovative ideas to improve the reliability and the quality in end products. It requires appropriate tools and techniques to be employed throughout the software development lifecycle. Extensive studies reported that IS projects fails mainly due to weak requirement engineering (RE) processes. Problems such as inadequate requirement elicitation, poor requirement analysis and negotiation processes, lack of appropriate requirement management practices also hinder the realisation of effective ISs. Furthermore, diversity in IS application areas has emphasised the need for innovative RE methodologies tailored to the needs of application domains. Traditional RE literature has mainly focused on bespoke development but market-driven RE has gained little attention. This motivated the editors to organise a special issue on this topic to present best practices employed in the industry. We would like to thank Prof. Angappa Gunasekaran, Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Business Information Systems* and the Inderscience staff for providing the platform to publish this special issue. We also would like to thank reviewers and authors for making this issue a reality.

The first paper of the special issue, authored by Rajesri Govindaraju and Bahana Wiradanti has developed a conceptual model to identify factors affecting the willingness of RE practitioners to implement best practices in RE phase.

In the second paper, Vibha Gaur and Anuja Soni propose a coding scheme for helping in the RE process. They implement this scheme in an IS to assist the developers in obtaining the equivalence classes to enhance the readability and maintainability of the requirements in software requirements specification (SRS).

In the next contribution, Adegoke Michael Abejide and his colleagues carry out a review of different requirement elicitation techniques to highlight their strengths and weaknesses.

In the fourth paper, Sanjay Sharma and Bhavin Shah propose a hybrid cloud approach to optimise supply chain process in small and medium scale enterprises to optimise value chain, IT resources, budgets and response time.

The last contribution by Asad Hanif and his colleagues carry out an empirical study of Pakistani software industry to understand the employed practices to verify non-functional requirements in web-based applications.