Editorial

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Biographical notes: Francisco Javier Carrillo is a Professor of Knowledge Management and Chair of the Strategic Focus Research Group on Knowledge Societies at Tecnológico de Monterrey. He is the President of the World Capital Institute. His current research interests are: capital systems, knowledge markets, knowledge-based development and new economic cultures.

This issue carries a diversity of knowledge-based development topics that exemplifies the theoretical and methodological scope within the field. From strategic analysis to conceptual innovation, from mathematical modelling to qualitative exploration, the papers contained in this issue jointly provide a rich sample of current research on KBD.

The paper by Tooran Alizadeh provides a comparative analysis of the digital strategy of two cities prominent for their KBD record: Brisbane in Australia and Vancouver in Canada. His main concern is the extent to which a digital strategy should be integrated into overall strategic urban planning. After a thorough comparison of relevant aspects in their respective digital strategies, the author finds substantial differences as to how the former issue is tackled in each of these two cases. The paper goes on to explore the implications of such differences for the potential development of both cities.

The second paper, by Antonio Lerro and Giovanni Schiuma, two seasoned KBD researchers, applies structural equation modelling to regional development as a function of knowledge-based factors. Their aim is to improve current understanding about this functional relationship, with an emphasis on the comprehensiveness of the data set. While their findings underscore the role of knowledge-based factors in regional development, they conclude that a wider and more systemic dynamics, possibly resulting from the perceived level of KBD, might be in place with regard to the attractiveness of regions.

In their paper, Beverly Tan and Vinh Thai explore the emerging concept of global knowledge hub (GKH) as a policy reference to regional KBD. They depart from the realisation that, while the use of this concept seems to be spreading, its conceptual characterisation and operationalisation remains non-consensual. Consequently, they introduce a generic GKH model to contribute to clarify its meaning and application. For this purpose, they build on an extensive literature review and a thorough discussion of the elements explicitly or implicitly involved in its current usage.

Blanca Garcia and America Martinez, in turn, look into relatively unexplored dimensions of social capital, such as resilience, associativity, tolerance and solidarity, to look for a more meaningful framework for knowledge-citizenship. They do so from a capitals systems perspective in order to grasp a better understanding of the value attributes of relational capital. Their framework then serves as the basis for a case study where aspects of knowledge citizenship were assessed at a regional level. Overall, their study contributes to a better characterisation of the dimensions involved in the construction of social capital and, in particular, in the development of knowledge citizens.

This issue serves also for launching a call for papers for a special issue on 'Open innovation, knowledge city and creative economy', to be guest edited by Professor JinHyo Joseph Yun from DGIST and Professor YounTaik Leem from Hanbat National University, both in South Korea. While this special issue will carry a selection of the best papers presented at the 8th Knowledge Cities World Summit and 1st Society of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity joint conference held in Daegu, South Korea on June 14–17, 2015, it is also open to authors willing to contribute to this convergence of current KBD themes.

Special thanks to all the reviewers that have contributed to the selection of papers included in this issue.