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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Minwir Al-Shammari is a Professor of Management and the Dean of the University of Bahrain's College of Business Administration. He holds a PhD in Business Administration from University of Glasgow, UK in 1990 and MS in Industrial Management from Central Missouri State University, USA in 1986. He has been involved for 25 years in teaching, research, training, and/or consultancy. He has published more than 30 research papers. He is the author of the premier reference source: *Customer Knowledge Management: People, Processes, and Technology*, 2009, IGI-Global Publishing, USA and is Editor of the book: *Knowledge Management in Emerging Economies: Social, Organizational, and Cultural Implementation*, 2010, IGI Global, USA.

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To further strengthen its position as an international banking and financial hub and a world leader in Islamic banking, it is important for the Kingdom of Bahrain to encourage research and development in finance, insurance and investment. Conducting seminars and conferences of global significance would boost the international confidence in the economic and financial sector of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

This special issue includes six papers selected from among those presented in the International Conference on Multidimensional Finance, Insurance and Investment (ICMFII'13) organised by the College of Business Administration at the University of Bahrain from 25 to 27 November 2013. The seminar took place with the co-sponsorship of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making and the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences – MCDM section. The ICMFII'13 was devoted to the recent developments and applications of the decision aid tools in the fields of finance, insurance and investment. This scientific event helped to disseminate recent methods and techniques designed to solve problems related to finance, insurance and portfolio selection formulated through a mathematical programming

framework for which conflicting and incommensurable objectives (criteria, attributes) are simultaneously optimised. The 2013 edition of the conference brought together 64 papers written by researchers and practitioners from 23 countries, including: Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, KSA, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Spain, Taiwan, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, the UK and the USA. The accepted papers in the special issue included both theoretical and application research from diverse areas related to multiple criteria decision making in finance, insurance and investment.

The first paper entitled 'Media planning and preferences: a fuzzy goal programming model' by Cinzia Colapinto and Davide La Torre, presented a fuzzy goal programming model for a marketing campaign from Italy. The second paper by Reza Masoumi reported a case study for a refinery master plan using analytical hierarchy process and decision tree tools. Aruldoss Martin et al. studied, in the third paper, bankruptcy prediction analysis and information delivery strategy using a fuzzy analytic hierarchy process. In the fourth paper, Günter Fandel and Jan Trockel examined the control problem of the supervisory board in a manager-auditor-conflict in banking using MCDM games. Belaid Aouni et al. analysed dynamic models in terms of differential equations and using a weighted goal programming model. Finally, Petr Fiala and Adam Borovička proposed a two-step procedure for investment decision making where DM preferences are fuzzy.

We take this opportunity to thank the authors who have contributed to this special issue for their efforts to submit high quality papers, and the international referees for their relevant comments and suggestions that improved rigor of the research papers. We would also like to thank the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Multicriteria Decision Making*, Professor John Psarras and Professor Constantin Zopounidis. Last but not least, thanks are due to the University of Bahrain administration, faculty, staff, and students for their efforts in organising the ICMFII'13.