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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Michael K. Fung is currently an Associate Professor of Economics at the School of Accounting and Finance, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His interdisciplinary research interests span over economics, finance, accounting, and operation research.

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The papers published in this *IJTM* special issue were presented at the SIBR-Thammasat 2015 Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research, which was held on 4–6 June 2015, at the Emerald Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The conference was jointly organised by The Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research and Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University. The conference theme was ‘Interdisciplinary Knowledge Advancement: Past Experience and Future Agenda’.

The papers appearing in this special issue were peer reviewed following the procedure outlined as follows. The guest editor initially evaluated all manuscripts nominated for the special issues. Papers rejected at this stage were outside the aims and scope of the journal or were insufficiently original. Papers that met the minimum criteria were forwarded to an expert for further review. This special issue employed double blind reviewing, where both the referee and author(s) remained anonymous throughout the process.

This *IJTM* special issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in issues concerning language, technology and competitiveness in global market places. Specifically, using an innovative method based on Coh-Matrix, Benjamin Duncan examined linguistic variations among business abstracts according to the authors’ countries of origin and first languages. Amany Fakher studied the relationship between trade in parts and FDI in Egypt and found that the former has a significance positive effect on the latter. From a marketing and organisational perspective, Jorge Mongay tried to understand the experiences and perceptions of dissatisfied consumers of a specific financial product in the US market. Moreover, Issam Kouatli investigated the security issue related to cloud computing, which might have implications on global business activities. Sulaiman Sajilan and Shehnaz Tehseen documented resources-based factors that might contribute to firms’ competitiveness in international markets. In addition, Gaétan Lefebvre and Fenintsoa Andriamasinoro explored a multi-agent methodology for modelling metal trading in international markets. The emergence and development of the above interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.