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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. Her research interest includes financial economics, industrial organisation and interdisciplinary research. He was an examiner for the Chartered Institute of Logistic and Transport (HK) and served on the Banking and Finance Industry Training Board of the Hong Kong SAR Government.

Bruno S. Sergi is currently teaching economic policy at the University of Messina. He serves as a Centre Associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. At the University of Messina, he is also Chairman of the PhD programme in Economic Sciences and Quantitative Methods (2011–2016). Since 2009, he has coached two networks of trade-union economic experts: the SEE TU Economic Experts' Network and the NIS TU Economic Experts' Network, both of which are under the framework of the Pan-European Regional Council of the International Trade Union Confederation. His primary research interest is international macroeconomics and the political economy of transition countries. He acknowledges financial support from the University of Messina (PRA 2008–2009).

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The papers published in this *IJEPPE* special issue have been presented at the SIBR-Thammasat 2014 Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research, which was held on 5–7 June 2014, at the Emerald Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The conference was jointly organised by The Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research and The Faculty of Economics of Thammasat University. The conference theme was 'The interdisciplinary approach to research, practice and learning'.

The papers appearing in this special issue were peer reviewed following the procedure outlined as follows. The guest editors 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. As a result of this reviewing process, five papers were accepted for publication in this special issue.

This *IJEPEE* special issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary research interest in the contributions of trade, foreign direct investment and local business sector to economic development. Specifically, Maham Umar Bajwa and Syed Toqueer Akhter studied the extent to which mango exporters of Pakistan conformed to the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade. Vanthana Nolintha and Lau Sim Yee examined the impact of FDI on the inequality in Laos. Moreover, Syed Toqueer Akhtar and Muhammad Qasim Asad attempted to find out the reasons for low savings in Pakistan, and found that the interplay between the status of education and the social demonstration effect played important roles. Using a sample of 85 countries, Wasutadon Nakawiroj found empirical linkages between trade structures and sustainability. In addition, Chandana Goswami and Rumia Begum compared two important segments of urban informal sector, namely street vendors and home-based enterprises, in terms of demographic profile, nature of occupation and business delivery practices. The emergence and development of the above interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.