
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.

The papers published in this IJMEF 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 IJMEF special issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in country-specific heterogeneity in financial markets. Specifically, Ito empirically studied the impact of stock prices and interest rates on the real estate investment trust market in Japan before and after the implementation of ‘Abenomics’. Using a Bayesian methodology, Bouzid estimated a small scale new Keynesian model in a small emerging economy in Tunisia with a focus on monetary policy transmission channels. Moreover, Rahman et al. examined the market structure of Malaysia’s financial service market in the presence of competition law. Moechdi et al. documented that assets, interest rate spread and capital were the most significant factors affecting the financial sustainability of the rural banking industry in Indonesia. In addition, Gunardi et al.’s findings suggest that company size, profitability and public stock ownership significantly influence corporate social responsibility reporting in Indonesia.

Furthermore, Soekarno et al. empirically estimated the speed of adjustment toward capital structure target in Indonesian state-owned enterprises. Turning to South Africa, Umar et al. investigated the relationship among monetary policy, inflation targeting and IT policy. The emergence and development of the above interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.