
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Ford Lumban Gaol is currently an Associate Professor in Bina Nusantara University. He is the Vice Chair of Bina Nusantara University Doctorate Program in Computer Science and Research Interest Group Leader Advance System in Computational Intelligence and Knowledge Engineering (IntelSys). He is the Vice Chair of IEEE Indonesia section, <http://ieeeweb.org/indonesia/officers/>, the ACM Indonesia past Chapter Chair and the IAIAI Indonesia Chapter Chair. He is the recipient of Visiting Professor in Kazan Federal University, Russia, Visiting Professor in Vladimir State University, Russia, Invited Scholar in Aligarh Muslim University, keynote speaker in ICCNT 2014 and Invited Scholar in ICTP Trieste Italy.

This special issue of the *International Journal of Technological Learning, Innovation and Development (IJTLID)* is dedicated to the theme of strategies for innovation in emerging economies. The special issue is based on empirical studies from some Asian countries. The rapid changes in society which, to a large extent, is influenced by the spread of the information and communication technologies (ICTs) have become prominent in the whole world. This affirmation is based on the principle that strategies for innovation have the potential to make possible the development of more better living, work, entertainment, energy production systems and transport environments.

As can be foreseen, no industries in the future will run without innovation. Strategies of innovation will be composed of organisations, technologies, human resources, environmental issues and the financial issues. The papers of this special issue are the extended versions of selected best papers accepted and presented at The 2nd International Congress on Interdisciplinary Behavior and Social Science 2013 (ICIBSoS 2013). Six papers were selected based on their excellent review scores including an invited paper. Authors were invited to submit extended versions, which have undergone a second review process to guarantee that all the papers included in this special issue have been rigorously peer-reviewed.

The first paper is entitled 'The obstacles for science technology parks in a developing country' and it is authored by Wawan Dhewanto, Donald Crestofel Lantu, Sri Herliana, and Anggraeni Permatasari. This paper is centred on the context of science and technology parks (STP) that are fundamentally posited to create links between business, academic and government to trigger the development of new technologies, including their commercialisation. In particular, STPs in Indonesia began to be established in the past five years by implementing the concept of triple-helix model. Still, there were obstacles that hamper their objective to success. This research aims to observe existing STPs in Indonesia, including investigation and evaluation on any obstacle occurred in their implementation. This research is conducted by using qualitative method. The

measurements of this research stand on the successful indicators of STP in either developing or developed countries. Data gathering is taken through in-depth interviews based on a purposive sampling. The interview is taken in four most developing STPs in Indonesia.

The second paper entitled 'A review of public private partnership procurement practice in Malaysia', authored by Afeez Olalekan Sanni and Maizon Hashim, presents a study of a new research trend in public private partnership procurement system as an opportunity to address those challenges. Despite that some developing countries have recorded little progress in the delivery of public projects under PPP arrangements, some other countries have successfully utilised the opportunities being provided by this procurement method. This study reviewed the implementation of PPP in Malaysia with the aim of using the experience to provide recommendations in addressing the challenges in other developing countries that lagging behind in the implementation. This study identified political support, people oriented policies, institutional framework and good macro-economic environment as some of the factors responsible for the successful implementation of PPP projects in Malaysia. It is recommended that the governments in developing countries should create conducive environment for PPP arrangement to succeed through people-oriented policies.

The third paper, entitled 'Re-distribution of knowledge for innovation around Russia', is authored by Anna A. Mikhaylova and Andrey S. Mikhaylov. This paper proposes a comparative analysis of the subjects of the Russian Federation in terms of accumulation of new codified knowledge with a high degree of readiness for commercialisation, i.e., the commercially ready knowledge (CRN). The study is based on two scientific approaches: 'ideas are embodied in patents' and 'ideas are concentrated in regions'. The method of cluster analysis was used to identify four types of regions according to the share of CRN accumulated in the respective regions on a national scale. Within the first three clusters – the major, large and medium, the following subclusters were identified: 'largely creators' and 'largely consumers'. The relationship between the level of innovative economic development of the region and the need for CRN is confirmed. Conclusions are made on comparability of generated and absorbed flow of new knowledge within regional innovation systems.

The fourth paper, entitled 'Promoting intellectual property education for engineers in China', is authored by Vincent Raës, Pei-Luen Patrick Rau, Xiang Ji, and Cuiling Chen. This paper examines the inherent relationship between engineers and intellectual property in Chinese background and discusses how to integrate a marginal element like IP into a graduate engineer curriculum without hindering any existing core curriculum elements. Surveys and interviews have been conducted to analyse the perception and understanding of IPR in China. Results showed that students recognise the need and importance of IP in engineering and IP lessons will increase the level of this recognition. And students prefer to learn IP by case studies and conference. Therefore, an IP instruction module has been developed in the IE department of Tsinghua University and a second survey has been launched to examine the effects. At last, a website has been developed to help the IP learning.

The fifth paper, entitled 'Evaluating the sustainability of Vietnamese products: the potential of 'designed in Vietnam' for Vietnamese vs. Dutch markets', is authored by Shauna Jin and Arnost Eduard Scheepens. The aim of this paper is to assess how sustainable the products developed in three editions of FLS are, by analysing their environmental impacts and their competitive value on domestic versus Western European

export markets. The increasingly popular eco-costs value ratio (EVR) model is used to give a portrayal of the environmental and economic sustainability of the products developed, based on a 'willingness to pay' (WtP) assessment that supplements the life cycle assessment (LCA) approach.

Finally, the sixth paper entitled 'The influence of workforce agility on external manufacturing flexibility of Iranian SMEs' is authored by Somaieh Alavi, has been based on research on the consequences of workforce agility on manufacturing flexibility in the context of SMEs. In order to contribute to this debate, this research investigates whether and how extent workforce agility is a critical factor for promoting external manufacturing flexibility, as a key component in dynamic environment. The study is conducted by gathering sample from 161 Iranian SMEs. The results suggest workforce agility enhances new product, mix, and volume flexibility. Moreover, testing the relationship between external manufacturing flexibility dimensions shows that mix flexibility encourages volume and new product flexibility in the SMEs.

The guest editor would like to thank all the authors and reviewers for their valuable contributions to this special issue. We hope that the papers selected in this special issue will become useful resources for researchers and practitioners to enhance the strategies for innovation in emerging economies that may learn from evidence from some countries in Asia. Finally, we would like to thank Professor Paulo N. Figueiredo, Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Technological Learning, Innovation and Development (IJTLID)* and editorial assistants for their help and support.