Editorial

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Biographical note: Michael K. Fung received PhD (Economics) from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 1998. Currently, he is an Associate Professor of Economics at the School of Accounting and Finance, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His research interest spans over economics, finance, accounting and operation research. He has published in the *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *Production and Operations Management, Economica*, *Financial Management*, *Journal of International Money and Finance*, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, and *Journal of Empirical Finance,* among other journals. Dr Fung has delivered seminars at many universities and conferences worldwide and has conducted a large variety of consultancy work with public and private institutions.

The majority of articles published in this *IJGSB* special issue were selected from the SIBR-UniKL 2016 Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research being held on February 12–13, 2016, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The conference was organised by the Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research and the University of Kuala Lumpur Business School. The articles 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 issue. Articles rejected at this stage were outside the aims and scope of the journal or were insufficiently original. Articles that met the minimum criteria were forwarded to at least two experts for further review. This special issue employed double blind reviewing, where both the referees and the author(s) remained anonymous throughout the process.

This *IJGSB* special issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in the reform of small-to-medium enterprises' financial management and global financial integration. Specifically, Medyawati and Yunanto studied several financial variables in the real estate and constructions industries and found that assets turnover, debt-equity ratio and price-to-book value are significantly associated with stock returns. Their findings may guide investment decisions in emerging markets whether market information is imperfect. Along the same line of research, Sulistiawan and Rudiawarni found that accounting accruals tend to lower stock risks and raise stock returns in an emerging market. One possible reason is that accruals increase the predictability of future earnings which is value-relevant in a highly volatile emerging market. Moreover, Hartati and Dwiyani's findings show that intellectual capital as represented by human capital, structural capital and capital efficiency significantly affects market values. Findings from the above studies are echoed by Pratama's study on companies' accounting disclosure in emerging markets, which serves as the most important information channel for resolving information asymmetry between firms and investors.

Turning to a nation's financial and banking systems, Ismail et al. found that Islamic banking contributes to financial stability from the microprudential, macroprudential and institutional dimensions. Their findings have potential implications on the stability of the mainstream financial system adopted by the western world, especially after the 2008 global financial crisis, and warrant further cross-country analyses. Taking another approach, Roslen et al. highlighted their multi-country event study methodology in investigating the issuance of green bond and shareholders' response. Another multi-country study is the one conducted by Dahalan and Umar, who attempted to unearth the dynamics underlying the relationship between exchange rate, interest rate and FDI.