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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 *IJEPEE* special issue were presented at the SIBR-RDINRRU 2015 Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research, which was held on July 2–3, 2015 in Osaka, Japan. The conference was jointly organised by The Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research and The Research and Development Institute of Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University.

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 at least two experts for further review. This special issue employed double blind reviewing, where both the referees and author(s) remained anonymous throughout the process.

This *IJEPEE* special issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in financial development and economic policies in emerging economies. Specifically, Cho and Lee examined the issues of downgrading employment in Korea. Using a sample of South African companies, Muzindutsi tried to find evidence for the relationship between social performance and share returns. Tanompongphandh et al. studied the best hedging strategy under Thailand's rice pledging scheme. Nováčková et al.'s study focused on the effects of state aid to support development of investment in Slovakia. Lin develops a procedure for determining the loan-to-value ratio of a commercial real estate investment. In addition, Kim and Hwang empirically examined the relationship between underwriter reputation and accounting conservatism of IPO firms in South Korea. Gamayuni's attention is on internal auditors' competence and financial reporting quality. Phutcharinya et al. provided guidelines for voluntourism development, which were applied to student activities in Thailand. Surujlal and Muzindutsi then turned the focus to the relationship between Tourism and Housing Market in South Africa. Finally, Muftiadi investigated the cost efficiency of rice production in Indonesia. The emergence and development of the above interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.