Editorial

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Biographical notes: Arnold C.S. Cheng is an expert in economic policy, real-estate economics, banking, and financial derivatives. He has published extensively in leading journals such as *The Economic Journal*, *Journal of Business Finance & Accounting*, *International Journal of Finance & Economics*, *Applied Financial Economics*, and *Pacific-Basin Finance Journal*. He is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (FRAS) and Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce (FRSA). He joined Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 1999 as an Assistant Professor and served as a Program Leader of BBA (financial services) at the same university.

The papers published in this *IJEPEE* special issue were presented at the SIBR-RDINRRU 2018 Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research, which was held on 22–23 February 2018 in Seoul, South Korea. The conference was jointly organised by the Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research and Faculty of Economics, Thammasat 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. The papers rejected at this stage were outside the aims and scope of the journal or were insufficiently original. The 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 the finance-growth relationship and policies supporting economic growth and financial development. The emergence and development of the following interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.

Specifically, Azu, applying a PPML technique, predicted a realignment of trade from traditional trade partners to more reliance on China and India. Wichitsathian studied and attempted to explain the differing working capital requirement across industries in Thailand. Sulistiawan and Rudiawarni's study demonstrates how market competition affects the earnings response coefficient, and shows that such relationship is partly determined by existence of positive earnings. Moreover, Kostini and Raharja, based on SWOT analysis, investigated the financial strategies leading to the success of SMEs in the Indonesia innovative industries.

Turning to economic policy, Ogorodnikova et al. studied the level of competitiveness of public urban transport using the example of Ekaterinburg (Russian Federation), which has implications on the economic development. Ryu and Won investigated the economies

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of scale in the Korean airline industry after the emergence of low-cost carriers. Shin and Lee conducted an analysis on elderly workers' plans to retire and desired retirement age and their associated policy implications in South Korea. Khusaini revisited the important topic on economic management, bureaucracy and economic development. In addition, Handoko looked into the market structure of tour operators and implications on the inequality in the community.

This special also features several articles on market structure and development. In particular, Tresna et al.'s study is focused on the branding strategy of an Indonesia city well-known for innovativeness and creativity. Kheerajit et al., using the market for Thai food as a case study, attempted to examine the effectiveness of an integrated media in promoting a local product to global markets. Khwaja et al., using structural equation modelling, examined the effects of social presence on purchase intentions in Malaysia with trust as a mediating variable. Djajanto studied the association between relationship marketing and customer satisfaction and loyalty in the banking industry in Indonesia. Moreover, Chu et al.'s study provides implications on how a recreation industry affects Taiwan's economic development.