Editorial

Mike Fung

School of Accounting and Finance,
Hong Kong Polytechnic University,
Yuk Choi Road, Hung Hom,
852 Kowloon, Hong Kong
Email: afmikef@polyu.edu.hk

Biographical notes: Mike 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 the fields of economics, finance, accounting, and operation research.

The papers published in this IJMEF special issue were presented at the SIBR 2019 Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research, which was held on April 20–21, 2019 in Seoul, South Korea. The conference was organised by The Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research.

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 IJMEF special issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in the Current Trends and Developments in International Financial Integration and Trade. The emergence and development of the following interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.

Several papers in the special issue address issues on international finance. Through firm-level data on Panama Papers destinations, Solilová *et al.*'s study reveals that Czech MNEs linked to Panama Papers destinations tended to generate lower tax payable per unit of profit before tax or operating profit. From a network perspective, Mohsin explains how connectivity patterns for different nodes may influence foreign portfolio investment flows among 26 countries. In contrast to past research findings, Changwatchai and Dheera-aumpon found that cultural differences do not impede Thailand's relative success in attracting FDI from source countries, which implies a new policy direction aiming to attract foreign investment. Moreover, a cross-country survey conducted by Fedorova *et al.* in the Czech Republic, Italy, Latvia, Pakistan, and Russian Federation show that global economic and social risks have a negative impact on labour relations in these countries. In addition, employing several rolling GARCH models, Obalade and Muzindutsi demonstrated the existence of adaptive month-of-the-year and intra-month/half-of-the-month effects in African stock markets.

Corporate governance and financial disclosure are also thoroughly discussed in this special issue. In Poland, Frączek documented the deficit of financial market information in the forms of market manipulations and abuses that may undermine financial inclusion. Svoboda *et al*. investigated Czech and German listed companies' compliance with IFRS mandatory disclosure requirements based on a disclosure index. Their findings suggest that the overall disclosure rate for Czech companies is low compared to their German counterparts. Moreover, based on a natural language processing methodology for extracting textual sentiment, Chuthanondha found that textual sentiment predicts a firm's future performance and that investors asymmetrically react to such information conveyed by the firm's management. Also in Thailand, Petcharat and Srinammuang's findings imply that an integrated reporting system is needed for listed companies to effectively disclose environmental and social performance to stakeholders. In addition, Suksonghong and Rodhring's study suggests that firms in Thailand engaged in real activities manipulations, such as discretionary expenses, sales manipulation, and over production, to avoid disappointed earnings announcements. Turning to Indonesia, Cahaya and Yoga's study suggests that good corporate governance has a positive effect on voluntary disclosure practices, with agency theory as a possible explanation. Similarly, Kusumadewi and Wardhani empirically showed that different types of agency problems have diverse effects on a firm's financial performance.

This special issue also includes several papers on behavioural analysis and firm performance. Contributing to the field of behavioural accounting, Damayanti *et al.*'s empirically showed that socio-economic conditions, ICT, and Banking Performance positively impact financial inclusion in Indonesia. By empirically testing a structural equation model, Qurrata *et al.*'s findings support the conjecture that the media and Islamic religiosity have significant impacts on charitable giving of 'cash waqf' in Muslim community. In a competitive market with certain unique characteristics, Raharja and Dai's study empirically found that innovation culture is the most important determinant of SMEs' performance.