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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Evan Lau is an Associate Professor and the Head of Strategic in Faculty of Economics and Business at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). He has held several key positions within UNIMAS, including the Deputy Dean and Director of the Centre for Business, Economics and Finance Forecasting (BEFfore). As an internationally recognised scholar, he has held visiting positions at the University of Cambridge and various universities in Indonesia. Evan has a strong research record, publishing over 100 journal articles. Evan has been listed among the Top 9% of economists in Malaysia and Top 10% in Asia by the Research Papers in Economics (RePEc) network.

Chor Foon Tang is an Associate Professor of Economics at CenPRIS, Universiti Sains Malaysia. He earned his PhD in Economics from the University of Malaya. He has published more than 100 research articles on macroeconomics and economic development, with a particular focus on the

catalysts of growth such as tourism, energy, direct investment, and savings. His work has appeared in various respected journals, including *Economics Letters*, *Empirical Economics*, *Economic Modelling*, *Energy Economics*, *Tourism Management*, and *Current Issues in Tourism*. He is an Editor for the *International Journal of Tourism Policy* and a member of the editorial board for *Tourism Economics*.

Abdul Rahim Ridzuan is an Associate Professor of economics at the Melaka campus of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). He obtained his PhD in International Economics from Universiti Sains Malaysia and currently holds the position of Senior Research Fellow at the Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (IBDAAI) of UiTM. He actively collaborates with foreign universities, serving as a Visiting Professor at institutions such as Universitas Airlangga and Universitas Negeri Semarang in Indonesia. He is a prolific researcher with over 50 publications in reputable international journals. His primary areas of research interest include international economics, energy economics, and environmental economics.

Irwan Trinugroho is a Full Professor of Finance at the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Sebelas Maret (FEB UNS), Indonesia. He graduated with a PhD in Banking and Finance from the University of Limoges, France. He has published in reputed journals including *Journal of Financial Stability*, *Economic Modelling*, *Economics Letters*, *Finance Research Letters*, *Global Finance Journal*, *British Accounting Review*, *Economic Systems*, *Research in International Business and Finance*, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance*, *Borsa Istanbul Review*, *International Economics*, *Economics Bulletin*, *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, *Singapore Economic Review*, *International Journal of Emerging Markets* and *Journal of Asia Business Studies*.

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Starting in China what believed as just another ‘flu’, the coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading around the globe. The public health threat has become an explosive economic crisis where no one is left behind on its intensity. In this extraordinary scenario, the current special issue focuses on the impact, challenges, opportunities and recovery path for emerging countries. Empirical papers in this collection come from Vietnam, Mexico, Turkey, Malaysia, Jordan, Morocco, India and Spain. They are not only contributing to the evolving body of literature, but the results obtained from these studies provide an important and meaningful guide in managing future disruption towards more resilient, equitable and sustainable development pathways for developing countries.