
Editorial

Mike Fung

School of Accounting and Finance,
Hong Kong Polytechnic University,
Yuk Choi Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon 852, Hong Kong
E-mail: 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 economics, finance, accounting, and operation research.

The papers published in this IJTGM special issue were presented at the SIBR 2020 Osaka Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research, which was held on July 2–3, 2020 in Osaka, Japan. 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 IJTGM special issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in political and cultural diversity in international trade, finance and markets. The emergence and development of the following interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.

This special issue contains several papers on cross-border trade and finance with political and cultural diversity. Specifically, in South Africa, Obalade et al. tracked the evolution of emerging bond markets cointegration and found co-movements between China-India and Brazil-South Africa pairings in the BRIC and BRICS eras, indicating portfolio diversification opportunities for bond holders. Sergeevna et al. attempted to identify factors determining international migration like GDP, fertility rate, and social spending. Moreover, Chanchaoenchai and Saraithong's logit regression shows that national pride, job creation opportunities, and awareness of FTA's benefits explain the probability of public support and preference for free trade in Thailand. Also in Thailand, Changwatchai and Dheera-aumpon's empirical study shows that Thailand's R&D and global value chain participation positively affect the country's total factor productivity. Turning to Islamic economies, Faturohman et al. empirically showed that Malaysia's Islamic banks outperform those in Indonesia in terms of market power and efficiency, and that the home country's conditions influence market power, while efficiency does not affect the country's conditions. Examining 93 companies in Southeast Asia, Safitri and Wardhani's international findings suggest that a higher quality of sustainability report

assurance weakens the negative effect of sustainability report comprehensiveness on analyst forecast accuracy.

Several papers in this special issue address the economic and social impacts of Covid-19. First, Ambarriani et al. described how MSMEs countered the problems of Covid-19 by rescheduling production, changing marketing techniques, and increasing the quantity and quality of customer relationship. Based on a Technology Acceptance Model framework, Kengsiswoyo et al. found that perceived usefulness and perceived risks influence Indonesian Muslims' acceptance of COVID-19 vaccine, and that Halal certification is an important factor. Amelia and Ronald examined tourists' revisit intention by examining the effects of perceived value and satisfaction when tourism was hit by Covid-19. Using a threshold generalised autoregressive conditional heteroscedasticity asymmetric model, Fordian and Raharja demonstrated that good news have a greater effect than bad news on stock returns during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The rest of this special issue cover topics on finance and accounting in various cultural and political contexts. In South Korea, Ryu and Won studied audit efficiency and found that Big4 used quality reviewers more efficiently than non-Big4, while the latter made better use of CPAs than the former. In Thailand, Kumpamool and Chancharat's study shows that the synergy of working capital management and board characteristics impact firm value. Using a structural equation model and data on firms listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, moreover, Bunnun and Chancharat's findings suggest that ownership structure has an indirect negative effect on firm performance through the firm's dividend policy. In Indonesia, using quantitative methods, Mita and Rahmah investigated the impact of the first phase of IFRS 9 implementation on the banking sector in Indonesia. Finally, Susan found that micro, small and medium enterprises' financial literacy on loans and budgets determines their access to finance.