Editorial

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Biographical notes: Ammar Jreisat holds a PhD in Finance and Economics from Western Sydney University, Australia. Currently, he is Assistant Professor in Finance at University of Bahrain. He serves as an associate editor of the *International Journal of Economics and Business Research*, also he serves as a reviewer in various international journals. In 2016, he received a travel grant award from the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) and Economic Research Forum (ERF) travel grant at MEEA/ASSA Conference in San Francisco, USA for his scientific research. His work has been published in international journals including *Cogent Economics and Finance*, *Polish Journal of Management Studies* and *Global Business Review*.

Welcome, to the special issue on: 'Emerging global trends: the future begins now' in *IJEBR*. This draws upon papers submitted to the 38th Business & Economics Society International (B&ESI) Conference held virtually on March 2–4, 2022, in collaboration between the B&ESI and the University of Bahrain, Kingdom of Bahrain. And 39th Business & Economics Society International (B&ESI) Conference held on July 6 to 9, 2022, in Rome, Italy.

As the *International Journal of Economics and Business Research* has an emphasis on the interdisciplinary perspective of business research, this special issue covers topics from domains such as finance, accounting, marketing, human resources, education, general management, etc. The conference organising team has selected 12 relevant papers from the papers presented in the conference for publication in the journal and the evaluation process was carried out on the principle of double-blind refereeing.

In this context, this special issue seeks to identify subjects related to today's world trends and challenges, as the globe is impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19). Business organisations around the world face increasingly complex issues regarding people, supply chains, financial health, education and risk management. Presently, we are experiencing one of the most significant historical shifts of the last century. Businesses are undergoing significant changes, while new business ventures emerge.

Essentially, the aim of this special issue is to bring together a community of scholars to discuss current research and make recommendations for new research directions. These recommendations are geared toward how to reimagine and reinvent our lives, organisations, economies and societies. In the light of increasing industrialisation, disease challenges, and other factors, this will lead to the invention of new methods of living and working.

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The articles in this special issue have addressed these issues from different perspectives.

The first paper is about 'An analysis of shock and volatility spillovers among Vietnamese and BRICS equity markets'.

The second paper attempts to explore the 'Synergetic impact of knowledge management and access to finance over open innovation for performance of SMEs'.

The third paper has focused on 'Price inflation in the agricultural sector during the COVID-19 pandemic: is it a supply or demand issue?'.

The fourth one is about 'The UAE education reform: opportunities and challenges'.

The fifth paper has an emphasis on understanding the 'COVID-19 pandemic and explicit deposit insurance scheme: an analytical study'.

The sixth paper has explored the 'Research opportunities in supply chain management during COVID-19 outbreak: exploring through review and bibliometric analysis'.

The seventh paper 'Examining the dynamic linkages between the banking sector activities and the economic growth of Oman: evidence from ARDL approach'.

The eighth paper has explored 'How COVID-19 affected academic performance and job readiness in higher education'.

The ninth paper focused on 'Multidimensional energy poverty and its determinants'.

The tenth paper is about the 'Conditional volatility and correlations between Sukuks, stocks, and gold in the GCC region'.

The 11th paper has discussed sustainable bank bailouts.

The 12th paper is on portfolio diversification and dynamic hedging among BRICS stock markets and cryptocurrencies.

The last one has explored the 'COVID-19 and its impact on online impulse buying behaviour: empirical evidence from the Kingdom of Bahrain'.

The guest editor of the special issue wants to thank the Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Economics and Business Research*, Prof. Demetri Kantarelis, and all the reviewers and authors involved in this journal issue and last but not least to the publishing team for their efforts.