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 Assistant Dean and an Associate Professor of Economics at the School of Accounting and Finance, Faculty of Business, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His interdisciplinary research interests span over economics, finance, accounting, and operation 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 *IJEPEE* special issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in political economy of financial and economic development in emerging markets. The emergence and development of the following interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.

Several articles in this special issue cover topics on international trade and finance. Specifically, Chancharoenchai and Saraithong examine determinants of public support for trade liberalisation and revealed the importance of environmental awareness. Ronald and Amelia study various religious and cultural dimensions of tourists' intension to visit a destination in Indonesia. Chancharat and Tukaew's findings show a significant difference in the average abnormal returns around 20 days before and after the Lunar New Year in the ASEAN+6 stock markets. Such a holiday effect is possibly caused by the increasing Chinese population worldwide.

Moreover, financial development in several emerging economies is revisited. Dheera-aumpon and Changwatchai examine the relationship between bribery and firm characteristics in Thailand and find that managerial experience and market competitions are key determinants. Ramadhanty and Faturohman discover that trust is a mediating variable in the relationship between various attributes of mobile banking and user satisfaction, which may explain why large banks have an edge in this emerging market. Using the generalised Supremum augmented Dickey-Fuller method, Muzindutsi et al. show the existence of real estate bubble in South Africa after the 2008 global financial crisis and that the bubble tends to spill over across cities. Based on a Markov-switching regression model, Obalade et al. in South Africa identify the relative importance of various macroeconomic variables (e.g., interest rate, GDP, exchange rate, money supply, rent, etc.) under bull and bear regimes.

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The roles of culture and education in economic development are also thoroughly discussed in this special issue. Using partial least square path modelling, Nguyen et al. show that culture influences religious beliefs and subjective norms which in turn affect a society's environmental concern, implying that culture and religion can be utilised to promote environmental behaviour. Thiangtong and Chancharat investigate how cross-cultural marriage affects women life satisfaction in Thailand. Their findings reveal that income, expenditure, the husband's social status, and financial literacy are important determinants. Setyaningrum confirm an empirical relationship between education quality and human development, which guides the government's resource allocation and sustainable development goals. Raharja and Purnomo use systematic mapping and authorship analysis to explore research opportunities in public entrepreneurship and find that education and urban environments are promising fields for further research. Susan et al.'s study reveals that financial information educates MSMEs owners and managers.

This special issue also features two articles on structural changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Vitriani et al. investigate whether the COVID-19 pandemic has changed financial behaviour and find that financial literacy and internal locus of control are important determinants before the pandemic while external locus of control has become more important during the pandemic. Based on time series analysis, Ito's findings suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic created a structural change in Japan's real estate markets.