
Editorial

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Biographical notes: John Vong has managed international development projects for the World Bank Group, United Nations Development Programme, AusAID, and has consulted for two central bank agencies, four global banks, five technology giants, and taught MBA programmes in the USA, Europe and Asia. His research focuses on financial inclusion, financial IT innovation, financial governance and emerging technologies for emerging markets.

Insu Song received his BSc in Physics from Chung-Ang University, Seoul, Korea, in 1991, his BInfoTech (First Class Hons.) from Griffith University, Australia, in 2004, and his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Queensland, Australia, in 2008. He is currently a full-time Senior Lecturer at the School of Business (IT) of James Cook University, where he directs a mobile application lab funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He has more than 15 years of experience in information systems design, embedded system design and electronics engineering. He has published more than 40 peer-reviewed papers and two books.

Purnendu Mandal taught in Europe, Australia, Asia and North America, and he maintains a strong research and publication record in inter-disciplinary areas including business technologies, SCM, SD modelling, operations management and strategy-leadership. He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed journals and conference papers, 16 books and edited books. His articles appeared in journals such as *Decision Support Systems*, *European J. of Operational Research*, *I. J. of Production Economics*, *J. of Global Info. Tech. Mgt.* and *I. J. of Production and Operations Management*. He serves in four international journal editorial boards and has edited three special issues of journals.

When one thinks of emerging Asia, the names of China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar or even Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) crop up. The perspectives of Asian economics and finance can be seen as multi-dimensional. The discussions in business circles focus on the behaviour of state monopolies, state-owned enterprises, family-owned enterprises and even oligarchies. The Asian financial markets are also influenced by ‘Abenomics’, as a reference to the economic reforms of Japan, or the

'bamboo curtain' pointing towards codes of governance in China. Despite all these, the emergence of Asia is hard to ignore. The financial data of Asian economies and the pulse of the Asian financial markets generate sufficient evidence of long-term growth. Against the backdrop of slow growth in a large part of first world nations, Asia looks increasingly interesting for most investors, bankers and academics.

This special issue of *International Journal of Process Management and Benchmarking* aims to address the dearth of research and practice in technology, operations, process and systems in emerging Asia. Towards that end, four important approaches were taken. Firstly, the selected articles must provide a lively discussion and debate on technology, operations, processes and systems. Secondly, the selected articles should contribute to the body of knowledge addressing specific issues in emerging Asia. Thirdly, the selected articles must encourage research creativity, innovative thinking, and publications of future issues. Lastly, this special issue of the journal must showcase exemplary inter-disciplinary research in Asia. To this end, the editors felt that the mission is accomplished.

There were goals that were not originally planned for, but were achieved as well. This special issue foretells the challenges of the impending formation of the ASEAN Economic Community, the cluster of ten nations of ASEAN, situated between China and India, is sometimes collectively known as the third growth engine of Asia. The integration of AEC is planned to take place by 2015, where enterprises will compete in a single market and where there is free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labour, and even freer flow of capital. The deployment of technology, the improvement made in operations, reduction of processes, and integration of systems, will become game changers in free competition.

This special issue beckons an interesting journey to explore emerging issues in economics and finance within an emerging Asia. The journey also calls for economic sustainability, the introduction of new codes on ethics, social responsibility and governance. The emergence of social enterprises is on the horizon that emphasises a fine balance between profit, environment and the humanity. These important matters need to be addressed and researched for future *IJPMB* issues.

The guest editors, John Vong, Insu Song and Purnendu Mandal would like to thank all the people who have paved the way to launch this special issue. Firstly, we extend our sincere appreciation the contributors who have submitted high quality research papers. Secondly our deep appreciation goes to the group of reviewers who have painstakingly combed through voluminous pages of research methodology, data and evidence. Last but not least, special thanks goes to the chief editor Professor Angappa Gunasekaran of *IJPMB* and our friends at Inderscience.