Special Issue on Open Innovation Strategies for SMEs Development: Utilization of ICT methods

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PREAMBLE

Entrepreneurship in recent years is passing through a dynamic transformation in operational and management aspects in terms of competitive advantage, knowledge gain and value addition within an enterprise. This may be termed as a paradigm shift and it has been shifted from simple introduction of new ideas, product or service development to collaborative nature incorporating innovation, in terms of products, processes, services and organizational transformations. Innovation has also incorporated open innovation concepts and practices in comparison to the more traditional closed innovation. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) play a critical role in the economy of most countries in the world. Many of them are leaders in applying innovation strategies for business promotion, value gain and economic empowerment in a country. However, little is known on how open innovation is implemented in SMEs and what are the challenges and benefits associated with their implementation. This special issue would like to focus in-depth studies, cases and researches focusing open innovation strategies for SMEs development through utilization of ICT tools.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE

This special issue has five papers, focusing various aspects of open innovation within the entrepreneurship. Ranging from conceptual issues to empirical or success cases, this special issue has tried to accumulate knowledge on how SMEs can apply the open innovation strategies for their development and empower them to act as catalyst of economic empowerment.

Paper 1 aims at providing a deep understanding of the current status of electronic networks in the Jordanian handicrafts sector from
innovation strategies in entrepreneurship is a newly evolved concept. By far, most researches reveal, majority of successful global ventures are adopting open innovation strategies in their business proceedings. However, despite their contribution to entrepreneurship and national economy, the SMEs are well below in acquiring this newly emerged trend of doing business. Moreover, not many researches are being conducted to investigate SMEs potencies, expectations, delivery channels and intricacies around the adoption of open innovation strategies. Paper 4 tries to put forward a contextual framework leading to an operational framework to explore the life-cycle of open innovation strategy management activities focusing technology transfer. It also discusses about issues on future researches in empowering SMEs through utilization of open innovation strategies.

Along the past years, the knowledge and innovation management have acquired increasing relevance in organizations and entrepreneurialships. During the last decade, open innovation strategy, and especially, crowdsourcing innovation model has gained increasing importance. Paper 5 discusses about this issue by approaching in two ways for commercializing intellectual property: crowdsourcing innovation and intellectual property marketplaces. The paper aims to provide knowledge about concepts and practices underlying the ways for commercializing intellectual property. It also seeks to contribute with a proposal of architecture for an intellectual property marketplace, based on the analysis of practices about crowdsourcing innovation and intellectual property marketplaces.

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Hakikur Rahman is an academic over 25 years has served leading education institutes and established various ICT projects funded by ADB, UNDP and World Bank in Bangladesh. He is currently serving as a Post Doctorate Researcher at the University of Minho, Portugal. He has written and edited over 15 books on computer education in ICT, education and research. Graduating from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in 1981, he has done his Master’s of Engineering from the American University of Beirut in 1986 and completed his PhD in Computer Engineering from the Ansted University, BVI, UK in 2001.

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