Four papers in this special issue are expanded versions of papers presented at the annual International Conference on Software Quality Management and International Conference on Process Improvement Research and Education, organised by the Quality Specialist Group of the British Computer Society (BCS) held in 2009 and 2010. The issue is completed with a regular paper. The aims and scope of these conferences concurs with the focus of the IJHCITP particularly on the need to prepare the human capital for the IT industry and for ensuring both the focus on employee empowerment, and quality of process and product across the demanding multidisciplinary IT profession. Today’s corporations face increasingly greater challenges in their effort to develop their workforce in this era of global connectivity, globalisation and need for business innovation and the need to manage fast and fundamental changes. The identification and development of methods, frameworks and synergies between academia and industry are imperative.

The first paper by Colin Pattinson et al., *Sustainability and Social Responsibility in Raising Awareness of Green Issues through Developing Tertiary Academic Provision: A Case Study*, discusses «Green IT». This includes the energy efficient use of IT, but more importantly, it covers the use of IT to enable the energy efficient and sustainable use of other technology. As this is a recent development, only very few organisations are currently employing staff with skills in this area. The paper discusses the way in which three UK universities are attempting to fill this skills gap. The authors are all on the committee of the BCS Green-IT Specialist Group.

The second paper by Francisco José Dominguez-Mayo et al., *A Framework for the Quality Evaluation of MDWE Methodologies and Information Technology Infrastructures*, discusses ongoing research into how developers could evaluate the quality of methodologies for developing web-based systems. As over one hundred web-based development meth-
 methodologies have been proposed, some means of assessing their quality is necessary.

The third paper by Juri Valtanen et al., *Problem-Focused Higher Education for Shaping the Knowledge Society*, discusses ways in which universities can modify their teaching and learning approaches, to ensure that their students will not only have skills that make them employable when they graduate, but also have skills that enable them to develop further new skills that are required because of the rapid rate of change of technology.

The fourth paper by Margaret Ross et al., *Engaging the Students in Activity Based Learning for Future Employability*, discusses a similar approach to make students more self-reliant and to be more useful to their future employers.

The paper that closes the issue is *Success Factors and Motivators in SPI* by Andreas Munk-Madsen and Peter Axel Nielsen. This work reports results of a survey of medium-sized and large software companies in Denmark in Software Process Improvement (SPI) awareness and variations in the practice SPI as well as implications for IT organisations and IT professionals.

The papers in this issue encompass recent research and practice (from across several countries) covering aspects of sustainability, social responsibility, the impact of IT on the environment, problem-based education, methods for enhancing employability and quality improvements through process improvement and the development and use of quality evaluation frameworks, and quality management through gaining understanding of and through a classification of information systems quality characteristics.

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