EDITORIAL PREFACE

Situating Global Information Management Research

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In my 10th anniversary editorial preface (JGIM vol. 10 no. 1), I laid out the terrain of research into global information management (GIM). The field is a niche area of information systems (IS) research with a focus on IS issues that are international in flavour. Despite its narrower focus, GIM research is highly diverse in which a wide variety of variables have been studied and methodology employed (Gallupe & Tan, 1999). These characteristics have presented difficulties in conducting GIM research.

In the five years since and despite the challenges, I am delighted to report the field continues to grow and mature. There is more research into culture and cross-cultural issues in IS. Approximately 28% of recently accepted submissions in JGIM fall in this category. We are also seeing an increase in research into global enterprise management – for example, an architecture model for international IS in MNCs, global supply chain management and global outsourcing/offshoring.

Submissions to JGIM have also strengthened. In the last two years, submissions continue to increase particularly from scholars in the Pacific Asia region. The articles in this issue of the Journal are mainly from researchers based in Asia.

In the first paper, Shaobo Ji, Qingfei Min and Weihe Han present a review of the state of play of IS research in China. They examined 604 IS research articles published in 18 leading Chinese academic journals between 1999 and 2003. Using Vessey et al’s (2002) categorization framework, the authors characterized IS research in China in terms of its reference disciplines, research topic, research method and unit of analysis. They also compared the results with Vessey et al’s which examined 488 papers in five leading IS journals (DS, ISR, JMIS, MISQ and MS). Directions for future research of the field for scholars in China are outlined.

The second article by John Lim and Yin Ping Yang reports on an experimental study of the impact of negotiation support systems (NNS) on the different phases of negotiation, namely pre-negotiation phase and negotiation phase in an East Asian context. The results show that both pre-negotiation and negotiation support improved gains in outcome with increased time in reaching agreement. In addition, pre-negotiation support led to more equal outcomes for negotiating dyads. The findings show the usefulness of NNS in enhancing the quality of different stages of negotiation. The research also recognizes the important role of culture in the negotiation setting and discusses its relevance with respect to the East Asian context of the study.

In the third article, Myeong-Cheol Park, Dan J. Kim and Sang-Woo Lee examine how
mobile number portability affects competition in the Korean mobile telecommunication market. Using a contingent valuation method, the authors explored the willingness of subscribers to pay for mobile number portability. The findings show that there is a difference in demand for number portability among subscribers depending on the service providers and that if the market has a strong, dominant player, some additional regulatory mechanisms are needed for the facilitation and implementation of number portability in order to reduce its side effects.

The fourth article by Jaymeen R. Shah, Garry L. White and James R. Cook investigate the views of USA-based IT professionals regarding privacy protection overseas. The results of the survey suggest that majority of the MNCs prefer the ‘one size fits all’ approach – developing and implementing a single set of privacy policies that is used across their operations in different countries.

Finally, JGIM welcomes submissions that are single nation studies from under represented nations. In these papers, authors are encouraged to situate the research in the country context. The journal’s audience is very interested in reading about how the country context supports the formulation of the research question(s) and hypotheses, as well as how it explains the results of the study. I hope scholars will take up this challenge and continue to advance the field by situating GIM research in the country context – for example, values and beliefs, culture, economic system and government policies.

REFERENCES


Dr. Felix B Tan is professor of information systems and head of the School of Computer and Information Sciences at Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. He serves as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Global Information Management and sits on the Council of the Information Resources Management Association as well as the Association for Information Systems. Dr. Tan’s current research interests are in electronic commerce, global information management, business-IT alignment, and the management of IT. He is actively using cognitive mapping and narrative inquiry methods in his research. Dr. Tan has published in MIS Quarterly, Information & Management, Journal of Information Technology as well as other journals and refereed conference proceedings. Dr. Tan has over 20 years experience in information systems management and consulting with large multinationals, as well as University teaching and research in Singapore, Canada and New Zealand.