Foreword

Infrastructure development is fundamental and crucial for any growing economy. This is particularly the case with the developing countries that the entire South Asian nations belong to. Furthermore, the developing nations are also affected by issues like governance flaws, incompetency, and complacency in the financial management.

While the quality assurance mechanisms and the compliance rates in building and manufacturing are at far from desirable levels in these countries, the ensuing depreciation in the infrastructure is yet another drawback and often nightmares for the insurance companies. The international financial institutions and the prospective foreign direct investors fear to make investments owing to poor infrastructure, corrupt practices, and poor financial management. All these lead to slow economic growth and upheavals in our economies. The sky rocketing inflation, regular currency devaluation, drop in the stock market, unemployment, etc. are often the symptoms of poor financial management prevalent in our region.

This book is a compilation of various research papers based largely in India and also from some parts in Europe (Turkey) and Latin America (Mexico). The themes and the issues are of wide representation, ranging from managing customer knowledge to infrastructure requirements for tourism development and from stress management in educational institutions to work attitude. Similarly, the topics of age old labour management conflicts in industry to mutual fund and investor’s perceptions are of critical importance in understanding and intervening in the financial crisis that is hitting all of us. The promise of rural tourism, venture capital avenues, performance management, banking issues, asset management efficiency, and profitability are some other topics of discussion in the book. I sincerely think that these issues are of paramount importance and have been pretty well researched and commented in the form of research papers in the book. At the same time, the authors also seek for greater analysis and further study in all these areas of infrastructure development and building of a more vibrant, viable, sustainable, and stable economy in all the growing economies of the world.

I congratulate the editors and the contributors who had put in a lot of effort and time in bringing out this book to address many vital concerns for a better understanding of the issues surrounding our economy.

Shivaraj Bhattarai
Royal Thimphu College, India

Shivaraj Bhattarai is from Dorokha in Southern Bhutan and has an MSc in Bio-Science and a PhD in Limnology (freshwater ecology). He taught at Sherubtse College (the lone premier university college in Bhutan till recent times) for over 17 years before joining Royal Thimphu College in 2008. He has several research publications to his credit; he has travelled to and received short-term trainings from universities outside of Bhutan and has acquired several years of experience in curriculum development and higher education planning, management, and administration.