

Editorial Preface

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COVID-19 caused a global shock in countries around the world that required and still requires urgent policies and decisions to return to normality as soon as possible. The global health crisis negatively impacted citizens, economies and societies and created unprecedented global disruption.

Governments need to act proactively to solve the new and emerging challenges that emerge from COVID-19 disruption and offer new innovative solutions for citizens and companies. It is important that governments design people-centred and gender-sensitive policies and action plans to make sure the social and economic recovery includes everybody and transforms our world to a greener and more inclusive world. Disruptive technologies (for example, artificial intelligence, big data, IoT, etc.) can be strategic enablers of innovative solutions for the post covid-19 scenario (Constantinides, Henfridsson, & Parker, 2018; Haefner et al., 2020; Su, Ding, & Xu, 2021; Xiao, Xi, & Ordóñez, 2017).

Companies and governments need to work in a transparent and collaborative way to support the transition towards a digital and greener economy. Investing in human capital and learning (at individual, group and organizational level) and social network that can tackle new challenges and develop innovative solutions for a better world is key for countries and regions (Lytras & Ordóñez, 2008; Lytras et al., 2018; Ordóñez, 2004, 2005; Xi et al., 2017).

Additionally, citizens and countries need to work collaboratively to support the achievement of United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are 17 sustainable development goals and 169 related targets to contribute to the achievement of peace, prosperity and sustainable development (United Nations, 2021).

This issue presents a collection of 21 papers that address key issues to understand business and the role of information technologies in Asian companies, economies and societies in disruptive times as well as the transformations towards a more sustainable planet. It covers examples, cases and empirical studies focused on ASEAN, Bangladesh, Borneo, Brunei Darussalam, China, India, Malaysia, Thailand, and Taiwan.

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