

Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue on ICT for Socio-Economic Development in Africa and Other Developing Regions (Part 2)

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This special issue of the International Journal of ICT Research in Africa and the Middle East (IJICTRAME) contains extended versions of papers selected from conference papers presented in the 2nd *International ICT Summit 2016*, which took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 4th July 2016, and invited papers.

The Summit is an annual event of the *Institute of Finance Management* (IFM), Tanzania in collaboration with the *Dublin Institute of Technology* (DIT), Ireland. The Summit brings together national and international stakeholders from ICT sector to share best practices in developing an information society in order to nurture digital engagement in the socio-economic developments. The Summit emphasises innovative activities and steps towards development of innovative ICT solutions and their applications that lead to attaining good governance, improved business operations as well as provision and accessibility of quality services across various sectors.

The event invited original, high-quality research contributions, industrial practices, and innovative ideas that advance the state-of-the-art in the design, development, deployment, evaluation and understanding of emerging ICT technologies for socio-economic development. The effective use of ICT is always a key component in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), which are the key drivers for modern socio-economic development. ICT is both an engine of economic growth and a valuable source of innovation. These are technologies which have spurred a virtuous cycle of skills, employment and investment in applications and tools that are fundamental leaps in innovation. These are not just better ways of doing old things, but radically new ways of doing previously impossible things.

Therefore, the papers included in this special issue address among others contemporary issues in ICT that aims to support, share and promote ICT skills for linking communities for communication, learning, and services. This will lead to improved well-being, increased work productivity, support for innovation, and thrust for inclusive growth.

Interesting findings from an investigation of the problem of adequacy of recommender systems evaluation methods in relation to user-centric factors are provided in a paper titled “*A Characterisation and Framework for User-centric factors in evaluation methods for recommender systems*”. The paper

reveals the need for a more holistic evaluation framework that combines system-centric and user-centric evaluation methods as well as formulating computational user-centric evaluation methods.

A review and an analysis of metrics for measuring mobile phone adoption in SMEs are provided in a paper titled "*Measuring mobile phone technology adoption in SMEs: analysis of metrics*". The paper also illuminates specific characteristics of mobile phone adoption versus that of SMEs. Essentially, a set of metrics are identified with their application viability in the context mobile phone adoption in SMEs.

In addition, an invited paper titled "*Enhancing security culture through user engagement: an organisational perspective*" calls for more collective responsibility in protecting organisational assets. It report findings of study conducted to uncover extent of user engagement induction of security culture among end-users in an organisation.

The second invited paper titled "*Leveraging patent information to improve ICT innovations in Tanzania*" unveils lack of using patent information to advance ICT research and development in Tanzania. The papers uncovered various reasons which contribute to this challenge. Illuminating these causes will enable responsible stakeholders to prepare workable strategies to overcome them.