

Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue on Digital Entrepreneurship and Industrial Revolution, Part 1

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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 at the 3rd International ICT Summit 2017, which took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 5th September 2017. The Summit is an annual event hosted by the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in collaboration with the Dublin Institute of Technology. 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 invited original, cutting-edge research contributions, industrial practices, and innovative ideas on models, theories, principles and policies for adopting and using ICT for digital entrepreneurship and industrial revolution. Therefore, the papers included in this special issue address among others contemporary issues in ICT that aims to encourage application of ICT in sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development. This will lead to improved well-being, increased work productivity, support for innovation, and thrust for inclusive growth.

This year's summit focused on demonstrations and discussions on how ICT can be adopted to create more economical opportunities to societies in emerging countries and transform their industries. The aim was to share best and innovative ways of using ICT to reduce unemployment by encouraging digital entrepreneurship, transforming industries and establishing new Tech companies. Eight papers were selected from those presented at the ICT Summit 2017. The selected papers were peer reviewed first before the conference and then second after the conference in extended form. This Special Issue of the IJICTRAME consists of two volumes each containing four papers.

The Special Issue on ICT for Digital Entrepreneurship and Industrial Revolution (Part 1) reveals that ICT can play a critical role on sustainable and inclusive socio-

economic development and therefore coordinated effort is required for developing countries to fully benefit from ICT.

The paper titled “Accessing Quality Open-Access Literature To Enable Teaching, Learning, and Industry” provides a solution to a problem of accessing published literature by providing a publicly-accessible meta-search engine that focuses on open-access sources. This tool breaks the barrier of accessing published literature and thus facilitate academics and the public at large to reduce digital gap.

The paper titled “ICT for Improving Financial Access in Informal Sector” shows that ICT can be leveraged to increase access to financial services and thus addressing challenges of informal sector, which include but not limited to information asymmetry, lack of collateral, business informality, and bureaucratic procedures.

Interesting findings from the paper titled “Implementation of ICT Strategic Plans in Public Organizations of Developing Countries: A Case of Tanzania” reveal that ISPs are underutilized in public organizations because of poor knowledge and budget allocation, among other factors. Thus, a coordinated effort is required to increase awareness on the role of ISPs to socio-economic development.

An invited paper titled “*Mobile Phone: A Loan Monitoring Tool for Micro Businesses*” brings into light inefficiencies of loans officers in Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and provides a solution to the problem. The paper discusses and evaluates development of a mobile app that assist loan officers to manage loan collection from micro businesses and in particular difficulty customers.

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