Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue of Latest Research of Knowledge Management in Southeast Asia

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The field of Knowledge Management (KM) is regaining a new strong interest from both academics and practitioners. Some of the main reasons are driven by ongoing organizational digital transformations and their knowledge related challenges, by the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence and its required use of high-quality knowledge as row materials, by the challenges associated with Big Data, by the release of the KM ISO Standard ISO30401, and by the change of work practices due to the COVID pandemic situation, where collaboration, knowledge sharing, and knowledge dissemination are critical. These changes are driving KM practitioners and academics to refine their traditional approaches to KM.

The objective of this special issue is to present some of the Southeast-Asian latest KM research and practices in the field of Knowledge Management. We focus this issue on Southeast-Asian KM practices since we believe they might be slightly different from Western approaches and might significantly contribute to the Global KM body of knowledge. After reviewing and curating various submissions, we selected 3 research conducted in the Kingdom of Thailand and in Indonesia, that we believe are novel and which open new horizons for future KM research.

In the first paper, Athakorn Kengpol and Wilaitip Punyota present "Knowledge Management of Vegetarian Food for the Elderly Using the Deep Convolutional Neural Network (DCNN): An Empirical Study in Thailand". In their research they are looking at ways to help elderly people in Thailand, who are suffering from chronic diseases, to best select their vegetarian food to remain healthy. Knowledge creation, knowledge storing, knowledge sharing and knowledge use processes are used all along this experiment to provide the best guidance to elderly. A sample of 100 elderly people was used to test the proposed vegetarian food identification model. 5000 images of popular vegetarian dishes offered in Thai restaurants was used by the model that supports the classification of vegetarian food appropriate for 10 types of chronic diseases (High blood pressure, Osteoarthritis, Cataract, High cholesterol, Diabetes, Dementia, Depression and Stroke). The machine Learning algorithm correctly identifies vegetarian food pictures taken and uploaded by elderlies 80% of the time.

In "Knowledge Management Maturity Level of Indonesian's Government Institutions and State-Owned Enterprises," Jann Hidajat Tjakraatmadja, Hary Febriansyah, Ruspita Rani Pertiwi, and Dewi Wahyu Handayani present the development and use of a KM maturity model in a government context. Through a multiple case study of 9 organizations (Ministries and non-ministries), they look at the role of KM in supporting the 2010-2025 bureaucratic reform in Indonesia. The maturity level analysis is conducted on the 3 pillars of KM; People, Process and Technology. A combination of the American Productivity Consortium (APQC) and Asian Productivity Organization (APO) KM capabilities is used to assess the maturity of organizations on 5 stages; Initiate, Develop, Standardize, Optimize and Innovate. Various data sources were used to identify the maturity level of these 9 organizations. Even though KM efforts are already in place, their findings show that the implementation of KM as

a strategy to achieve bureaucratic reformation was still sporadic and that more efforts were required for all aspects of KM to be fully and systematically implemented. The ultimate goal being for these organizations to become what they refer to as "Knowledgeable organizations".

Last but not least, Throngvid Hongsaprabhas and Xavier Parisot present "The Thai SME Open Innovation Food-Machinery Flexibility Model: Six Patterns of Coupled Knowledge Flows". In their study they investigated the open innovation (OI) logics and practices of 109 projects of food new product development in 2 SMEs in Thailand. This detailed analysis resulted in the identification of 6 sub-patterns of food-machinery flexibility models. For the first time these models help to understand what remained a "Black box" when it comes to understand what OI strategies SMEs use with external actors to develop their ecosystem. Their findings show different approaches based on the scale level (laboratory versus industrial) and based on the main knowledge flows focus (inbound, outbound, or couped). The food academics and practitioners who plan to develop new products can use the proposed food-machinery flexibility models as their NPD guideline.

It is very interesting to see the variety and novelty of research illustrated in these 3 selected papers. It shows that KM can be successfully applied and bring value at different levels, including individual, network/ecosystem and governmental. The common theme of these 3 papers is the application of KM to support innovation, social innovation, government innovation/transformation and new product development. It is a very refreshing view and application of KM that will hopefully inspire the readers of this special issue. Long live Knowledge Management!

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