Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue on Knowledge Management (KM)

Sajjad M. Jasimuddin, Department of Strategy, Kedge Business School, Marseille, France

Due to the emergence of the knowledge based view, knowledge is a critical resource for firms in the knowledge society (Jasimuddin, 2012; Jasimuddin et al., 2012; Zhang & Jasimuddin, 2008). As the knowledge management (KM) subject has matured, research in KM has evolved from studying and adopting theories from other fields (Jasimuddin et al., 2005; Jasimuddin, 2006). Academics and practitioners have been developing new theories, and thereby implementing KM in many different contexts and sectors. Along with the increase in the scholarly study of KM in other disciplines, the subject has received a broader interest in its application in many different sectors (Klein et al., 2007; Jasimuddin & Zhang, 2011; Jasimuddin et al., 2006). Organizations, be it business, educational institution, government, or intelligence agency, have been implementing KM so that their knowledge workers can explore and exploit internal and external sources of knowledge to discharge their duties. Indeed, the field of KM can reach the tipping point where the advancement of knowledge is possible by conducting a thorough examination of KM surrounding contexts of what is known and unknown

The special issue invites papers that establish links and seeks connections the contributions made to KM in many different sectors. Most specifically, the special issue provides a focused outlet to advance our understanding of KM so as to stimulate more research in this area by looking at its application in many different sectors. The call for the special issue of the *INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT JOURNAL* (IRMJ) went out in October of 2013 with a submission deadline of March 31, 2015. Our goal is to inform *IRMJ's* readers about the theories, methods, and best practices in KM. We are pleased to receive 42 submissions for the peer-reviewed papers, and very grateful to them who volunteered to review the submitted papers. We are additionally delighted with the reviewers meet an aggressive deadline. What has been most interesting in organizing and editing this issue is to see the commonalities among the themes suggested by the participating authors, reviewers, and practitioners. A careful reading across the issue's contents will reveal these repeating themes in various contexts.

The papers in this issue address various topics surrounding KM. The six papers are empirical papers, based on different contexts. In the first article, Petter Gottschalk ("Knowledge Management

in Private Investigations of White-Collar Crime") applies the knowledge-based view of the firm as its main theoretical perspective to study private investigators in white-collar crime investigations. The activity of private investigations by fraud examiners is a business of lawyers, auditors and other professionals who investigate suspicions of financial crime by white-collar criminals. Private investigations represent an interesting and unique field of KM research for several reasons. A possible white-collar crime has occurred, and examiners are to figure out what, how, who and why. It is a puzzle of information pieces that has to be solved. If one piece is missing in a puzzle of thousands of pieces, the crime will never be solved. Second, knowledge cannot be shared freely. Knowledge has to be applied in a sequence of investigative steps, where witnesses and suspects are involved to the extent that the investigation makes progress. Colleagues in the firm and executives in the client organization do only get to know about a current investigation to the extent that they have a role to play in it. A senior investigating person plays the role of a knowledge manager, who monitors information flows.

In the second article, Xinwei Yuan, Lorne Olfman, and Jingbing Yi ("How do Institution-based Trust and Interpersonal Trust Affect Interdepartmental Knowledge Sharing") investigate the role of interpersonal trust in promoting interdepartmental knowledge sharing. The effect of institution-based trust, especially the joint effect of institution-based and interpersonal trust, on interdepartmental knowledge sharing has not been adequately described. The authors build a conceptual model to describe the independent and joint effects of these two forms of trust on the satisfaction and success of interdepartmental knowledge sharing. The moderating role of knowledge tacitness is also described in this model, which is tested on 294 collaborative task scenarios between departments within Chinese IT firms. The empirical results essentially support the proposed model and contribute to organisational trust and interdepartmental knowledge-sharing discussions by clarifying the substantial roles of these two forms of trust in the context of interdepartmental collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Paul Bookhamer and Zuopeng Zhang ("Knowledge Management in a Global Context: a Case Study") establish a formal framework of managing knowledge assets in global enterprises. The suggested framework holistically integrates the following eight components: global information infrastructure, IT capabilities, global outsourcing, global information system design, development, and implementation, trans-border data flow, IT cultures, global virtual teams, and information resource management strategies, which serve as the crucial enablers of the success of KM initiatives in a global context. Validated by a case study, the proposed framework provides meaningful insights for future research and valuable guidance for practicing managers of global KM.

Sheikh Shamim Hasnain, Sajjad M Jasimuddin and Nerys Fuller-Love ("Exploring Causes, Taxonomies, Mechanisms and Barriers Influencing Knowledge Transfer: Empirical Study in NGOs") address various aspects of knowledge transfer process, a significant element of KM, in the NGO context based in Bangladesh. The importance of identifying the appropriate knowledge transfer mechanisms and the barriers to knowledge transfer are paramount. The highest number of NGOs in the world is deployed in Bangladesh. This paper makes an endeavour to bridge these grey areas of knowledge management and NGO-sector. Having collected the qualitative data from Bangladeshi NGOs and using the content analysis technique, the study identifies the causes of knowledge transfer, taxonomies of knowledge, mechanisms of knowledge transfer and the barriers to knowledge transfer. By understanding the mechanisms and the determinants of knowledge transfer, company and NGO managers and public policy makers can influence knowledge transfer more effectively.

In the next article, Jernej Agrež and Nadja Damij ("A knowledge management approach to the loosely coupled systems") explore characteristics and design the concept of the KM system that would be able to operate in a loosely coupled system. The authors used a literature review to determine characteristics of the conceptual design that would fit into the unstable environment. Based on the theoretical insights, we designed the open framework that is capable of adjustments, multilevel designing, it allows integration of statistical methods and supports conversion into the web ontology language. They applied and developed concept to a loosely coupled system test case, to achieve better understanding of its capabilities. The solution is appropriate for implementation to analyze knowledge network and process architecture relations in different informal organizational networks, as well as

during events where spontaneous cooperation among different types of organizations and individuals is necessary, such as massive natural disasters and other similar events.

Finally, Indra Sensuse, Wahyu Catur Wibowo, and Elin Cahyaning ("Indonesian Government Knowledge Management Model: A Theoretical Model") argue that KM is strategic issue that usually use for strategic planning of organizational development in order to reach organization competitiveness and retaining organization knowledge. It also become trends in Governmental institution for implementing KM align with the regulation. Internal employee rotation, promotion mutation and open bidding program among government institution take part of this loosing knowledge. The authors conducted a literature review and previous study analysis to build a theoretical model of Indonesian government KM. Classification, categorization and elaboration analysis are used for construct a new theoretical model. Indonesian KM model consists of two stages defining organizational strategy that delivering organizational strategy and KM strategy stages which is consist of five elements, there are organization culture, critical success factor of KM, SWOT analysis, organization KM process and organization knowledge map.

We believe this special issue generates much conversation to advance our understanding of KM. Collectively, the papers in this issue reflect the applicability of KM in various environment, offer a rich set of findings, and raise a variety of interesting theoretical and empirical questions. I much appreciate the opportunity to organizing this issue of IRMJ and thank all those who contributed to content and process. Most specifically, I would like to thank all the reviewers, editorial board members, and publication team whose generous help has made this special issue possible.

Sajjad M. Jasimuddin
Guest Editor
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