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EDITORIAL PREFACE: FINDING OPPORTUNITIES AND OPTIMISM: A NUANCED LOOK AT THE GROWTH OF THE IS FIELD IN A GLOBAL OUTSOURCING CONTEXT

Varun Grover, Clemson University, USA

The advisory editor talks about recent debates in the IS fields on issues of stemming the tide of dwindling enrollments, and redesigning curriculum in light of the growing export of IS jobs. The problem is that media-hype coupled with poor student advisement creates a vicious cycle, attributing strong causality between the two that oversimplifies the phenomena and constrains positive pursuit of growth opportunities. The editor offers reflections, challenges, and possible solutions.

ARTICLES:

IMPROVING BUSINESS PROCESSES ELECTRONICALLY: AN ACTION RESEARCH STUDY IN NEW ZEALAND AND THE US

Ned Kock, Texas A&M International University, USA

Dorrie DeLuca, University of Delaware, USA

The authors investigate the impact of the use of an asynchronous and distributed electronic communication tool on 8 business process improvement groups, 4 in New Zealand and 4 in the USA. The study suggests that even though the use of electronic communication media seems to increase the cognitive effort required from group members, it has a positive impact on knowledge sharing among group members and group outcome quality. These results are consistent across countries, and generally support predictions based on the compensatory adaptation model.

ALIGNING BUSINESS STRATEGIES AND IS RESOURCES IN JAPANESE SMES: A RESOURCE-BASED VIEW

Charla Griffy-Brown, Pepperdine University, USA

Mark Chun, Pepperdine University, USA

Through the lens of the Resource-Based View of the Firm (RBV), the authors explored the role of information systems in Japanese SMEs and found that the adoption of information systems in Japanese SMEs consisted of extensive subcontracting networks which formed the basis of the Japanese production system and was an essential resource for contributing to successful implementation of global business strategies. Further, Japanese SMEs formulated and enacted strategies which leveraged information systems resources to enhance operations and strategic relationships and to establish dynamic capabilities.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN TRANSORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT: THE CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL INSOURCING

Madhu T. Rao, Seattle University, USA

Terrence W. Earls, Seattle University, USA

Gloria Sanchez, Seattle University, USA

This article examines a special case of global transorganizational insourcing in which two dispersed, semi-autonomous organizations within the same parent entity collaborate on a software development project. The project involves an American and Indian team working together to develop an enterprise-wide SAP application for Transangara Corporation, a large software publishing house headquartered in the United States. Using a transorganizational development (TOD) model, the study analyzes the reasons behind the failure of the collaborating teams to meet the scheduled release deadline for the project and presents the steps taken to address the challenges.

THE EXPERT OPINION: AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID W. ESSIG, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, GENERAL MOTORS POWERTRAIN

Conducted by Paul S. Licker, Oakland University, USA

The GM Powertrain CIO discusses several IT issues in their company's context. He talks about the role of IT in the automobile industry, technical and management challenges, implementation problems and issues, culture issues, and the use of IT in expanding global markets.

BOOK REVIEW: MANAGING GLOBAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES.

Editors: Prashant Palvia, Shailendra Palvia, and Al Harris

Reviewed by Roberto Vinaja, Texas A&M University—Commerce, USA

Current trends have motivated the editors to produce their fourth book in Global IT. This new book not only captures the contemporary global IT issues, but also updates the classical issues. The book has twenty five chapters divided into five sections. The five sections are: IT in a Global Context, Global Strategies and Policies, Integration of Global Systems, Global IS Development and Outsourcing, and E-Commerce and E-Government.

For copies of the above articles, please check for the Journal of Global Information Technology Management (JGITM) in your institution's library.

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SCOPE AND COVERAGE: The journal's scope is multidisciplinary. It publishes research, applied, and educational articles from all areas of MIS as well as functional IT applications that have international focus. The journal also entertains a variety of methodological approaches. It encourages manuscript submissions from authors all over the world, both from academia and industry. In addition, the journal will also include educational cases and reviews of MIS books that have bearing on global aspects. Practitioner input will be specifically solicited from time-to-time in the form of industry columns and CIO interviews.

Articles in the journal include, but are not limited to the following areas: Frameworks and models for global information systems (GIS), Development, evaluation and management of GIS, Electronic Commerce, Internet related issues, Societal impacts of IT in developing countries, IT and Economic development, IT Diffusion in developing countries, IT human resource issues, DSS/EIS/ES in international settings, Organizational and management structures for GIS, Transborder data flow issues, Electronic data interchange, Telecommunications, Distributed global databases and networks, Cultural and societal impacts, Comparative studies of nations, and Applications and case studies (both educational and research).

The 9th annual Global Information Technology Management Association (GITMA) World Conference will be held in Atlanta, USA on June 22, 23 & 24, 2008. The submission deadline is November 15, 2007. For more information, please visit our web site: <http://www.gitma.org>