

VOL. 11, NO. 4, October 2008

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE OF JGITM (VOL. 11, NO. 4, October 2008).
SPECIAL ISSUE "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN TRANSITION ECONOMIES"
GUEST EDITORS: NARCYZ ROZTOCKI AND H. ROLAND WEISTROFFER

EDITORIAL PREFACE: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN TRANSITION ECONOMIES

Narczyz Roztocki, State University of New York at New Paltz, roztockn@newpaltz.edu

H. Roland Weistroffer, Virginia Commonwealth University, hrweistr@vcu.edu

Guest editors introduce the special issue. The break-up of the Soviet Union resulted in many formerly centrally planned and highly controlled economies to experience radical reforms that fully changed the business landscape. Many businesses and organizations in transition economies not only experienced major restructuring, but also acquired increased access to modern information technology (IT). Though much of the development in transition economies is supported by IT, there is not much published research dealing with the role of IT. The objective of this special issue is to stimulate research in this important area.

ARTICLES:

TRANSITION TO MARKET ECONOMY THROUGH INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING: A CASE OF SAVA COMPANY

Dubravka Cecez-Kecmanovic, University of New South Wales, dubravka@unsw.edu.au

Marius Janson, University of Missouri-St. Louis, janson@umsl.edu

Jože Zupančič, University of Maribor, Slovenia, joze.zupancic@fov.uni-mb.si

The case of the Slovenian Company Sava is presented. The objective of the paper is twofold: a) to propose a theoretical interpretation of the role of IS in organizational learning in companies in transition economies by drawing from theories generated and tested in the context of developed western economies, and b) to demonstrate how such interpretation can expand our understanding of the relationship between IS and organizational learning beyond its traditional western context.

ICT IN A TRANSITION ECONOMY: THE CASE OF HUNGARY

G. Harindranath, University of London, g.harindranath@rhul.ac.uk

This paper examines specifically the impact of economic transition on the production and use of ICT in Hungary. Firstly, it examines the implications of economic transition for Hungary's ICT producing industry. Second, it explores patterns of ICT diffusion and use. While economic transition has led to increasing globalization and the consequent integration of Hungary into the European and the global economy, the impact of such transition for ICT production and use has been more problematic. A call is made for a renewed role for policies to integrate ICT and economic development strategies with a view to creating an information society for all citizens.

STRATEGIES FOR TELECOMS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY IN THE PRODUCTION OF REVENUES: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION IN THE CONTEXT OF TRANSITION ECONOMIES

Sergey Samoilenko, Virginia Union University, svsergey@vcu.org

Kweku-Muata Osei-Bryson, Virginia Commonwealth University, kweku.muata@isy.vcu.edu

Despite sharing a common label, Transition Economies (TE) do not constitute a homogenous group. Rather they differ in many ways, including the level of economic development. These differences preclude TEs from adapting a uniform strategy towards increasing the level of relative efficiency of production of revenues from investments in Telecoms. Two research questions are examined. The first involves the identification of strategies for increasing the level of the relative efficiency of the production of revenue from Telecoms. The second involves the identification of appropriate implementation routes of the identified strategy. The authors draw theoretical support from the framework of Neoclassical Growth Accounting and employ a three-step methodology.

THE EXPERT OPINION: AN INTERVIEW WITH WOJCIECH WIERZBA, PRESIDENT, DIGITLAND, KRAKOW, POLAND

Conducted by Piotr Soja, Cracow University of Economics, Krakow, Poland, eisoja@cyf-kr.edu.pl

Wojciech Wierzba is co-owner and president of Digitland, a company based in Krakow, Poland, providing enterprise systems, integration solutions, consulting, and implementation services. The interview discusses the

company's IT challenges including those due to operating in Poland. Industry and competitive trends are also explored.

BOOK REVIEW: THE EMERGING MARKETS CENTURY: HOW A NEW BREED OF WORLD-CLASS COMPANIES IS OVERTAKING THE WORLD, BY ANTOINE VAN AGTMAEL

Reviewed by Myung Ko

This is an excellent book to understand how companies in the Third World, such as Brazil, China, India, and Mexico have become the top emerging world class companies and these emerging market companies will continue to grow and there will be a shift in the global economy from the developed world to emerging markets in near future. It picks up where Friedman's *The World is Flat* left off. Antoine van Agtmael provides important insight into how the "West" can learn from these companies, based on his in-depth knowledge, thorough research, and work experience in emerging markets.