

EDITORIAL PREFACE

"IT Strategy: The Challenge of Over-regulation, Culture, and Large-scale Collaborations" by Barry Shore. Professor Shore, an Associate Editor for the journal, discusses some looming issues that will impact the global IT strategies of multinational organizations.

ARTICLES

Information Technology, Culture, and Learning at Federal Express.

Authors: Brian D. Janz and James C. Wetherbe, The University of Memphis, USA

Abstract: Federal Express Corporation has grown from a startup in the overnight package delivery business to a \$9 billion global leader in the industry. How has FedEx achieved such success? The following case study finds that while leadership in information technology innovation has been central to FedEx's success, attention to the diversity of both organizational and global cultures as well as organizational learning have helped to provide a foundation for long-term viability in the global marketplace.

Information Systems Management issues in Hong Kong: A Contingency Analysis and Comparison with the United Kingdom

Authors: Janice M. Burn, Edith Cowan University, Perth, and Colonel Szeto, Far East Data Limited, Hong Kong

Abstract: This paper reports information systems (IS) issues perceived as important by Hong Kong (HK) business and IS managers and identify whether these differ greatly from findings in the United Kingdom (UK). The results suggest that there are variations on perceived issues of importance which can be attributed to cultural contexts but these are less significant than the differences found between managers in different industries. Further, firms which are highly dependent upon Information Technology (IT) have very different concerns and approaches from the "run-of-the-mill" organisations either in HK or UK. The conclusion, therefore, is to suggest that rather than address problem issues identified "collectively", companies must seek to study problems based on their specific industry environment.

Making the World Your Oyster: Experiences from Teaching Information Systems Management for Global Operations

Authors: Omar A. El Sawy and K. Ravi Kumar, University of Southern California, USA

Abstract: This article presents a model of education in which university faculty (U), students (S), and companies (C) learn together in a real-time, collaborative and balanced way - and in a global and international context. We show how this USC global balanced learning model emerged through the MBA course on information systems management

for global operations management over the last six years. We share our experiences and draw some lessons for management education in general, and information systems management education in particular.

THE EXPERT'S OPINION

An interview is conducted with Mr. P.S. Sridharan, Managing Director, Megatech Control Ltd., Chennai, India.

Interview conducted by Chetan S. Sankar and Akila Sankar.

Professor Sankar is Industry Editor for JGITM. Megatech, started in 1986, is the first system house of Siemens in India for providing custom built automation solutions to Indian industry. The interview discusses several issues including infrastructure, automation and labor requirements.

THE BOOK REVIEW

Written by Edward M. Roche.

He reviews "The President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection" by Robert T. March, Chairman, October 1997, Washington, D.C. Available at the Commission's web site at: <http://www.pccip.gov/>. This work informs the reader that there is an entire range of threats emerging in the new networked world including cyber-terrorism, information warfare, and the role of organized crime.

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