

**EDITORIAL PREFACE**

**UBIQUITOUS COMPUTING IN THE MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISE**

**Edward M. Roche**, Long Island University, New York

New developments in ICT and MNCs are discussed. Based on these developments, the author provides a few implications and provokes a few arguments. Arguments include: infrastructure is irrelevant, information ecology not 'atomism', traditional organizational views worthless, old measures of value irrelevant, and collaborative performance metrics replace individual.

**ARTICLES:**

**EXPLORING DIFFERENCES IN INTERNET ADOPTION AND USAGE BETWEEN HISTORICALLY ADVANTAGED AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**Irwin Brown and Paul Licker**

Theories of technology adoption and usage behaviour have generally been crafted and tested in developed countries. This study therefore aimed to extend knowledge by examining Internet adoption and usage behaviour in a developing country (South Africa). Differences in Internet adoption between those from a group previously advantaged by apartheid and those from a group previously disadvantaged were specifically examined. For the previously advantaged, Perceived Usefulness, Perceived Enjoyment, and Long-term Consequences of Use were found to influence Internet adoption. For the previously disadvantaged, the main influence was Perceived Usefulness, with Perceived Ease of Use having an indirect effect through Perceived Usefulness. The implications of these findings in respect of the digital divide are discussed.

**KEY ISSUES IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ACADEMICS AND PRACTITIONERS IN THAILAND**

**Daranee Pimchangthong, Michel Plaisent, and Prosper Bernard**

This study was designed to examine the information systems (IS) key issues in Thailand by comparing IS academics and practitioners within the country, and by comparing Thailand as a whole with other developed and developing countries. The Q-Sort method, a ranking technique, was used to rank the IS key issues. The findings show that the issue of building information technology (IT) infrastructure was projected to be the top issue over the next three to five years in Thailand. The importance ranking of IS key issues in Thailand was similar to the studies from developed countries but different than the studies from developing countries. There was a significant difference in the importance rankings of IS key issues between academics and practitioners in Thailand.

**PUBLIC IT POLICIES IN LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE LITERATURE AND A REFERENCE FRAMEWORK**

**Ricardo M. Checchi, J.J. Po-An Hsieh, and Detmar W. Straub**

How well do extant diffusion models originating in developed countries explain adoption of IT in less developed countries? What is the literature with respect to public IT policies? The authors explore the literature on public IT policies to answer these questions. Findings indicate that, due to differences in environmental factors, existing models may not be applicable to less developed countries without consideration of structural differences between developed countries and less developed countries. Within extant studies of public IT policies, this article identifies typical research characteristics – e.g., case study methodologies, single country selection, single project scope, and little theory development. Finally, an integrative framework for the rationalization of existing models is proposed.

**THE EXPERT OPINION: An Interview with Leonard Brody, CEO and Chairman of Ipreo, conducted by Mahesh S. Raisinghani, University of Dallas.**

Leonard Brody is recognized as one of Canada's young entrepreneurial leaders. He is currently CEO and Chairman of Ipreo, a new private equity research company which assists the financial community in pricing and valuing private companies. Trends in e-business and strategies at Ipreo are discussed.

**BOOK REVIEW: COMPETITION AND COOPERATION IN TAIWAN'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY: INTER-FIRM NETWORKS AND INDUSTRIAL UPGRADING, by Teresa Shuk-ching Poon. Review written by Roberto Vinaja, Texas A&M-Commerce University.**

This book studies the role of inter-organizational networks in the development and upgrading of the IT industry in Taiwan, by applying the global commodity chains theoretical framework. The author also examines the topic within the context of the emerging global IT trends.