

## **VOL. 9, NO. 2, April 2006**

### **EDITORIAL PREFACE:**

#### **KEY IS MANAGEMENT ISSUES: NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM**

Prashant Palvia, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA

The Editor-in-Chief proposes an international research program which would address the limitations of current key IS issue studies (conducted mostly in the US) and create a useful agenda of research for members of the global IT community. He outlines the essential objectives and milestones of this research program.

### **ARTICLES:**

#### **INFLUENCES ON TAIWANESE SME E-MARKETPLACE ADOPTION DECISIONS**

Chian-Son Yu, Shih Chien University, Taipei, Taiwan

The rate of adoption of e-marketplaces among Taiwanese small and medium enterprises (SMEs) has remained lower than expected. This low adoption rate is particularly difficult to understand given that the Taiwanese government has constructed one of the highest quality national information infrastructures in the world, and has encouraged SMEs to seek global trade opportunities over time. Accordingly, this work explores the influences on Taiwanese SME decisions regarding e-marketplace adoption.

#### **KEY INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN ESTONIA FOR THE 2000S AND A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

Princely Ifinedo, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

This study reports key information system (IS) management issues in Estonia, for a second time since 1993. The primary objective was to compare and contrast the findings in a previous study with the present effort. Secondary objectives included investigating views across professional classifications and sectors. A comparison between Estonia (an emerging economy) and Norway (a developed country) was made. Findings indicate: 1) the past decade has produced salient changes in the ranking of IS issues for Estonia, 2) there are significant differences across professional groupings (IT and non-IT), 3) a convergence of opinions regarding key IS issues seems to be noticeable in Estonian public and private sectors, and 4) there is a significant difference in the ranking of comparable issues between Estonia and Norway.

#### **UNDERSTANDING E-GOVERNMENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT: A POSITIVIST CASE STUDY OF SINGAPORE**

Weiling Ke, Clarkson University, USA

Kwok Kee Wei, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

The authors extend the contingency framework of project management proposed by Barki and his colleagues to the context of e-government projects. In particular, they contend that the digital divide is another risk factor for e-government projects and therefore bridging the digital divide should be part of e-government projects' management profiles. To test the research model, they conducted a case study with a ministry in Singapore. Theoretical contributions and managerial implications of this study are discussed.

### **THE EXPERT OPINION:**

An Interview with Hanno Van Pelt, President and CEO, Promisan

Conducted by Hamid R. Nemati, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA

Mr. Hanno Van Pelt discusses major opportunities and challenges facing his company, and the small IT consulting industry as a whole. Promisan has an international client base in countries such as Mozambique and South Africa, and has global reach with a culturally diverse team.

### **BOOK REVIEW:**

#### **THE WORLD IS FLAT: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, BY THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN**

Reviewed by Mark Wesker

Thomas Friedman delivers an excellent analysis of how the economic playing field is leveling across the world ("the world is flat" is a metaphor). Every day the western media is awash with reports of lost jobs,

relocating manufacturing facilities, and western companies investing more and more in “third-world” nations. What macro-economic and geopolitical factors are behind this economic shift? And, how does this impact the United States, and other western economies. These are just some of the issues addressed in Friedman’s *The World is Flat*.