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EDITORIAL PREFACE: GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT IN THE AGE OF ECONOMIES OF STYLE

Paul S. Licker, Oakland University, USA

Four new trends are highlighted: outsourcing, offloading, integration of outsourcing with offloading, and economies of style. The author argues about the destruction of the economies of scale and scope. Instead, the third kind of economy, economy of style, trading on multiple, dynamic relationships, is the key to business.

ARTICLES:

TRENDS, IMPLICATIONS, AND RESPONSES TO GLOBAL IT SOURCING: A FIELD STUDY

Madhu T. Rao, William Poole, Peter V. Raven and Diane L. Lockwood, Seattle University

This article presents the results of a study of the perceived direction of global IT sourcing in the United States and its implications for business. The primary drivers of offshoring partnerships were cost, access to expertise, and domestic headcount stabilization. Significant concerns were expressed as to the nature of computer science education in the United States and a need to shift from technical skills to those that focus on business domain knowledge.

THE ALIGNMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN SMES IN MALAYSIA

Noor A. Ismail, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia and Malcolm King, Loughborough University, U.K.

This study explores the alignment between information systems processing capacity and information requirement in the context of accounting information in small and medium sized manufacturing firms. Cluster analysis was used to group SMEs with similar levels of alignment. Three groups emerged which could be readily identified as Aligned, Moderate and Not aligned. Statistical tests confirmed that the group of SMEs with the highest level of alignment achieved significantly better performance than the other two groups.

MIDDLE-EAST.COM: DIFFUSION OF THE INTERNET AND ONLINE SHOPPING IN JORDAN AND TURKEY

Thomas F. Stafford, University of Memphis, USA, Aykut H. Turan, Adnan Menderes University, Turkey and Ahmad M. Khasawneh, The University of Newcastle, Australia

The emerging online markets represented by the developing nations of the Middle East are important, but not well understood. This study makes a comparative analysis between Turkey, one of the more mature developing nations of the region, and Jordan, a smaller developing nation that has recently adopted important technology initiatives. The rapid advance of Internet user motivations and online shopping intentions in the Kingdom of Jordan appear to be a direct result of the new King's recent technology initiative.

THE EXPERT OPINION:

AN INTERVIEW WITH ALAIN M. SADEGHI, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, eTechSecurityPro Conducted by Hamid R. Nemati, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA

Mr. Sadeghi discusses the background of information security industry and his company. He comments on preventive measures, global issues, and regulations/competencies pertaining to security firms.

BOOK REVIEW:

THE SOURCES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN INDIA, BY SIVA SIVASUBRAMONIAN

Reviewed by Roberto Vinaja

During the last few decades, India has become one of the more dynamic economies in the world. The book presents a comprehensive study of Indian economic development. Understanding the forces behind India's growth pattern is relevant both from a local and global perspective. This book provides a rich source of statistical data which, combined with Information Technology data, can be used by policy makers and researchers interested in the relationship between Information Technology and economic development.