

## Foreword

A growing body of knowledge is being accumulated in the area of global information technologies (IT). Global IT research is a subset of IS research. It focuses on IS issues that are international in flavor. However, Global IT research is distinct from general IS research. One way of differentiating is by the research themes examined. Six major themes distinguish global IT research—namely, global enterprise management, global information resources management, culture & socio-economic issues, comparative study of nations, research frameworks/key issues, and single country studies.

Global IT research also is very diverse. There are a wide variety of variables studied and methodology used. Variables examined included those internal to the organization (e.g., characteristics of the development; operations and management environments; the characteristics of the IS being studied; and extent of adoption and diffusion of IT), as well as the external environments (e.g., culture, infrastructure, government policy, and legal system). Both quantitative and qualitative approaches have been widely employed—primarily, field and case studies.

The narrow and diverse nature of the field presents difficulties in conducting global IT research. The difficulties intrinsic in global research revolve around resource constraints and methodological problems. For example, language barriers between researchers and research participants, research instrument translation, conceptualizing and measuring culture, biasness, financial and time-related limitations.

This book brings together research from academics in countries such as Australia, China, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, and the USA. The chapters cover most of the major themes in global IT mentioned earlier. In sharing their research and findings relating to global IT management in the digital economy, I hope that you will find this book a useful resource in developing further research into the subject.

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