

## Editorial

This issue starts with some relevant works regarding socio-cultural trends. The first one deals with the impacts of population dynamics and longevity in Japan, and the need to think about new solutions for an increasing number of empty schools. We heard about this problem during our trip to Japan last year, and the kind of social alternatives for this empty spaces. No doubt that in some parts of the world the problem may still be the lack of schools; but now we know that sooner or latter this kind of problem may becomes exactly the opposite, so thinking ahead on multiuse open-share spaces may become a kind of solution. The second paper comes from Brazil, is also related to education and deals with the urgent need to develop an interdisciplinary approach that is so much needed in such a complex and dynamic world as today.

Next papers, two from China and one form Japan, deals with how advance techniques may be applied to the area of Innovation and Management. The first one form China shows how Technological Innovation and Knowledge Transformation may have an impact on Enterprise Growth using Structure Equation Modeling SEM; while the second seeks to develop evaluation indicators for tax policy performance assessment of technology innovating enterprise using the Analytic Hierarchy Process-AHP to find the weights of the Output Effect Level, Customer Level, Internal Process level and Learning and Growth Level of the Balance Scorecard Model as well as a Fuzzy Logic approach for determining the membership level of the Indicators. Finally the one from Japan suggest a complex framework using Dynamic Simulation- DELMIA, TRIZ, TOC and Design to Customer Needs-TOC to deal with Manufacturing Project Management.

The last three papers are related to ways to deal with risks particularly related to services. The one from Brazil is a Case study of one of the largest retail stores in Brazil that is becoming concerned with the impact on its brand related to social and environmental impact of the whole chain related to its products and services. The second one is also a case study but this time regarding financial performance of the Ecobank–Togo focusing on profitability, liquidity, risk and efficiency. Finally there is a paper from japan that presents a very interesting and general Template and method that provides a multilateral viewpoint for the extraction of service failure causes.

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