Editorial Introduction

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In many developing countries, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the main force for economic growth. Adoption of information technology (IT) has been empirically shown to have effects on firm performance in many previous studies. How SMEs can take advantage of productivity enhancement from proper use of IT is a challenge for managers and an issue that has not been well investigated. This issue of PAJAIS includes four papers; two of them study IT uses in SMEs.

The first paper by Burgess, et al. studies the use of social media in SMEs in Australia. The authors adopt Roger's innovation decision process to classify SMEs into five key stages of adoption of social media and identify key factors that influence the progression of SMEs across the various stages of adoption from in-depth interviews with 42 Australian businesses. The findings indicate that using social media has become a common practice but its perceived value varies.

The second paper by Kumar, et al. examines factors that affect SMEs' adoption of cloud computing in India. They build a research model based on TAM, Diffusion of Technology and the Technology-Organization-Environment framework, and use data collected from 271 SMEs from the northern region of India to examine their hypotheses. The result shows that relative advantage, security concerns, top management support, external pressure and service providers' support are significant factors that influence intention to adopt cloud computing.

The third paper by Hsu and Chiang is interesting in that it provides a comprehensive overview of e-commerce research published in the past two decades. The authors use bibliometric method to explore features of published e-commerce papers and compare differences between those published in MIS and EC journals. Productive institutions, scholars and evolution of research topics provide a very informative snapshot of research ecology in this area.

The fourth paper by Thakurta examines the issue of user participation in information systems project. Although the issue of user participation is a traditional one, this paper is unique in that it examines why would users participate. Five motives are identified: nature of association, techno-centric activity, user-centric activity, user interest, and project importance. The findings are useful for project managers who would like to encourage user participation.

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