



## Guest Editorial

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Leveraging available resources is important but presents a challenge for firms competing in today's marketplace. To meet the constantly evolving demands of governments, individuals, and communities, it is crucial for firms to understand the issues both internal and external to them, as well as the unique characteristics of the industry they work in. This special issue (Vol 8.2, 2018) explores the application of the multiple disciplines of management in a wide range of areas, from the firm's capabilities and challenges, entrepreneurship, risk, banking and taxation, to corporate social responsibility, consumer behaviour, and community.

Malaysia has been regarded as a frontrunner among developing nations. The unique characteristics of the country may yield a significant extension to the management body of knowledge. Among them, its multi-racial citizenship may shape a company's settings, internal values and strategies, and help it to meet the non-homogenous demands of the marketplace. Research of such questions from the Malaysian context may prove very profitable for the firms as well as significant extension to existing literature.

This special issue covers two important areas of management, one is within and one is external to firms. Within the firm, some interesting findings can be highlighted. Samsudin et al. found that organizational commitment mediates the role of leadership support and employees' behavior in the era of organic organizational structures replacing more mechanistic ones. Their findings are also forwarded by Yazid et al, who highlight that conflict is more complicated to manage in a self-managed project team than in a conventional one. Further, Hasan and Abdullah unravel how the intellectual capital of a firm can be translated into innovative capabilities.

Rahmat and Jaafar, and Ismail et al respectively investigate strategic practices in Malaysian firms, and remuneration and tax. These two articles set out the dynamics and dilemma between remuneration or dividends and tax practices covering many types of firms. The strategic practices of firms are discussed in this special issue in widely differing contexts: (1) network positioning by Osman, Yazid, and Palil; (2) risk management by Hafizudin-syah, Janor, and Hamid; and (3) corporate social responsibility by Mohd-Nor et al. All of these articles provide evidence of a relationship with performance. In addition, entrepreneurship is a feature in Malaysian society this special issue contributes to the entrepreneurship body of knowledge. Social entrepreneurship is an area of emerging research investigated by Wahid et al., who seek to understand the behavior of entrepreneurship behavior of graduates, while Senik et al. focus on entrepreneurs' orientation to internationalization. Both groups of researchers find that entrepreneurship skills are fundamental but dynamic and need to be established at all stages of a business's life



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The areas of management external firms are addressed by seven articles in this special issue. In the Malaysian context, customers are the central point addressed by Omar et al. and Alam et al. The former look at customer relationships and the latter at the attraction of new customers. For a firm to be successful, lessons need to be learned from others. This special issue features two articles that take the analysis beyond Malaysia while retaining a focus on Southeast Asia: Amin, Ali and Md Nor examine the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and Mohd, Abdul-Rahman, and Yaacob examine the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Lastly, education is considered fundamental and this special issue also highlights research conducted on higher education by Sinniah et al.

It is hoped that this body of work forms a basis for further research within the Malaysian context. That such research is long overdue is demonstrated by the dynamism of management and the empirical evidence from this unique country.

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