

Editorial

This is the first issue of Volume 5 of the *Journal of Business Systems, Governance and Ethics* for 2010, its 5th year of publication.

The first article in this issue: *Looking at Both Sides of the Coin: Revisiting the Role of Country of Origin in International Business* is by Alexander Josiassen from Victoria University, Melbourne and Richard Fletcher from the University of Western Sydney. In this article they note that in international business the country-of-origin and psychological distance concepts play crucial roles and that both have been extensively investigated by researchers. They point out however, that the notion that they both deal with country-perceptions as seen from the seller and buyer respectively have mostly been overlooked in the literature, and in their article argue that the two concepts are critical to market success and that firms must consider their joint influence on the buyer-seller relationship as well as on the individual deal.

The second article: *Linking Islamic Work Ethic to Computer Use Ethics, Job Satisfaction and Organisational Commitment in Malaysia* has been contributed by Norshidah Mohamed, Nor Shahriza Abdul Karim and Ramlah Hussein from the International Islamic University Malaysia. The article described research that seeks to investigate whether the Islamic work ethic is linked to individuals' attitudes towards computer use ethics, job satisfaction and organisational commitment. The research used a cross-sectional self-administered survey method in the International Islamic University Malaysia. The study found that Islamic work ethic within a university environment is linked to individuals' attitudes towards computer use ethics, job satisfaction and organisational commitment.

Next is an article by Joshua Fogel from the City University of New York, Nadine McSween from Brooklyn USA and Osman Dutt, Regional Service Coordinator, Chartis, Berkeley Heights USA and looks at: *Religious Affiliation and Ethics: Patterns Regarding Beliefs for Workplace Behaviours*. In their article they note that Ethical decisions are made regarding day-to-day workplace behaviours. Their research involved a survey of 315 college students in the USA from 9 different religious categories: Catholic, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Agnostic, Atheist, and Other. These students were asked whether "in the workplace, it is acceptable to do so" for 27 different behaviours, and the article describes the results.

The next article: *IT Governance Awareness and Practices: an Insight from Malaysian Senior Management Perspective* is by Yap May Lin, Noor Habibah Arshad, Halilah Haron, Yap Bee Wah and Azlinah Mohamed from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Selangor, Malaysia, and Muhammad Yusoff from the Open University Malaysia. In the article, the authors point out that while corporate governance is now receiving due attention in the Asian region, IT governance does not appear to be given much credence even though business processes today mandate IT. Using senior management sample data from Malaysian organizations, a study was conducted to determine the awareness and practices of IT governance, and the reported finding indicate that Malaysian businesses appeared to exhibit awareness but that IT governance was only partially practiced.

In the final article: *The Attempt to Privatise Business Ethics: A Critique of The Claims of Contractarianism to Be The Ethical Framework for Global Business*, G. D. Donleavy from the University of Western Sydney, notes that many issues in business ethics centre on the meaning and scope of the notion 'duty of care', and in his paper he examines three major ethical frameworks that have different ideas about this. In particular the paper critically analyses the recent claims of Contractarianism in the Academy of Management Review and finds these wanting to a serious degree. The paper argues that while Kohlberg is universalist, therefore a recognisably ethical moral framework, it shares with Contractarianism the disadvantage of a problematic a priori rationality in terms of its specifically ethical judgments.

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Editor

