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TABLE OF CONTENT

Energy, Economic Growth and Pollutant Emissions Nexus: The Case of Malaysia A.A. Azlina, N.H. Nik Mustapha Pages 1-7

Does Purchasing Power Parity Hold for Garment Export-Oriented Developing Countries? Ariful Hoque, Rajabrata Banerjee Pages 8-13

Asia-Pacific Currency Options Pricing Analysis Ariful Hoque Pages 14-19

A Preference Analysis Model for Selecting Tourist Destinations based on Motivational Factors: A Case Study in Kedah, Malaysia Daud Mohamad, Rozana Mohd Jamil Pages 20-25

The Influence of Internal Environment and Continuous Improvements on Firms Competitiveness and Performance Mohamed Zain, Norizan M. Kassim Pages 26-32

Strategy, Interactive Control System and National Culture: A Case Study of Batik Industry in Indonesia Tubagus Ismail, Lili Sugeng Wiyantoro, Meutia, Munawar Muchlish Pages 33-38

Flexible Working and Employment of People with Disabilities at Customs Brokerage Firms in Turkey: A Social Responsibility Project Serpil Aytac, Nuran Bayram, Ahmet Özenalp, Serhat Özgökçeler, ... Hasan Erturk Pages 39-45

The Development of Entrepreneurial Social Competence and Business Network to Improve Competitive Advantage and Business Performance of Small Medium Sized Enterprises: A Case Study of Batik Industry in Indonesia Meutia, Tubagus Ismail Pages 46-51

Analysis of the Success of Feed-in Tariff for Renewable Energy Promotion Mechanism in the EU: Lessons from Germany and Spain Maria Teresa García-Alvarez, Rosa María Mariz-Pérez Pages 52-57

Growth and survival: Evidence from Spanish franchising Rosa Maria Mariz-Perez

Pages 58-63

Understanding Dynamic Behavior of Swing Voters during Election Campaign Period using Agent-based Simulation Corinthias Pamatang Morgana Sianipar, Shimaditya Nuraeni, Dhanan Sarwo Utomo, Yos Sunitiyoso, Utomo Sarjono Putro Pages 64-69

Business/IT Projects Alignment through the Project Portfolio Approval Process as IT Governance Instrument Carlos Juiz, Mercedes Gómez, M. Isabel Barceló Pages 70-75

The Boundary Conditions of Degressive Proportionality Janusz Łyko Pages 76-82

Qualitative Analysis about Consumer Complaint Response through Reader's Letter Column in Kompas.com Laila Refiana Pages 83-87

Management of Innovation Processes in Terms of Development of National Economy of Kazakhstan Rimma K. Sagieva, Aziza S. Zhuparova Pages 88-93

The Application of Neural Network and Logistics Regression Models on Predicting Customer Satisfaction in a Student-Operated Restaurant Aisyah Larasati, Camille DeYong, Lisa Slevitch Pages 94-99

Factors Affecting Cooperatives' Performance in Relation to Strategic Planning and Members' Participation Y. Mahazril 'Aini, H.A.K. Hafizah, Y. Zuraini Pages 100-105

Symbolic Meaning of Money, Self-esteem, and Identification with Pancasila Values Juneman, Eko A. Meinarno, Wahyu Rahardjo Pages 106-115

Impact of Recent Flood on the Economy of Small Business at Rockhampton Monir Zaman Pages 116-126

Economic Forces and the Sukuk Market Nursilah Ahmad, Siti Nurazira Mohd Daud, Zurina Kefeli Pages 127-133 Constructing Identity through Facebook Profiles: Online Identity and Visual Impression Management of University Students in Malaysia Latisha Asmaak Shafie, Surina Nayan, Nazira Osman Pages 134-140

ERP Implementation Success and Knowledge Capability Sevenpri Candra Pages 141-149

The Impact of Emotional Intelligence towards Relationship of Personality and Self-Esteem at Workplace Siti Sarawati Hj. Johar, Ishak Mad Shah, Zainudin Abu Bakar Pages 150-155

Capital Structure and Firm Performance: Evidence from Malaysian Listed Companies Mahfuzah Salim, Raj Yadav Pages 156-166

The Role of Government Assistance to Generate Competitive Leadership, Commitment, Motivation, Innovation, Environment and its Impact on the Performance of TenunCual Union Industry Cluster in Bangka Belitung Province Rudy Aryanto, Maria Fransiska Pages 167-172

CEO Succession and Shareholders Wealth in Malaysian Public Listed Companies Rokiah Ishak, Rohaida Abdul Latif Pages 173-179

Land, Marriage and Social Exclusion: The Case of Madurese Exile Widow Khaerul Umam Noer Pages 180-185

Relationship of TQM and Business Performance with Mediators of SPC, Lean Production and TPM M.F. Ahmad, N. Zakuan, A. Jusoh, J. Takala Pages 186-191

Comparative Study between Fiji and Papua New Guinea Tourism Development: Lessons to Learn from Fiji Joycelyn Kia Pipike Pages 192-198

Internal Human based Threats and Security Controls in Computerized Banking Systems: Evidence from Malaysia Zaini Zainol, Sherliza Puat Nelson, AbuBakar Malami Pages 199-204

The Impact of Infrastructure on Foreign Direct Investment: The Case of Malaysia Nor'Aznin Abu Bakar, Siti Hadijah Che Mat, Mukaramah Harun Pages 205-211 Understanding Culture through Personality: From the World of a Thai University Wilailak Ounjit (Laila) Pages 212-217

Folklore, Restoration of Social Capital and Community Culture Maneerat Janthaluck, Wilailak Ounjit (Laila) Pages 218-224

Social Structure and Early Childhood Learning Enhancement Nattiya Phonkhao, Wilailak Ounjit (Laila) Pages 225-231

Public Distribution System in Rural India: Implications for Food Safety and Consumer Protection Basanta Kumar, Brajraj Mohanty Pages 232-238

Motivation for Earnings Management among Auditors in Malaysia Farisha Hamid, Hafiza Aishah Hashim, Zalailah Salleh Pages 239-246

Behind the Green Doors: What Management Practices Lead to Sustainable Innovation? Z. Fadhilah, T. Ramayah Pages 247-252

The Role of Japanese Human Resource Planning Practices for Increasing Industrial Competitiveness Didik Purwadi Pages 253-259

The Attributes of Electronic Service Quality (e-SQ) among Academic Librarians Salmiah Mohamad Amin, Ungku Norulkamar Ungku Ahmad Pages 260-265

The Dimensions of Technostress among Academic Librarians Ungku Norulkamar Ungku Ahmad, Salmiah Mohamad Amin Pages 266-271

Islamic Work Ethic: The Role of Intrinsic Motivation, Job Satisfaction, Organizational Commitment and Job Performance Keumala Hayati, Indra Caniago Pages 272-277

A Distributed Retail Beer Game for Decision Support System Bidyut Biman Sarkar, Nabendu Chaki Pages 278-284 Making a Case for Social Impact Assessment in Urban Development: Social Impacts and Legal Disputes in Queensland, Australia Evonne Miller, Laurie Buys Pages 285-292

Identification of Cluster Factors for the Standalone Restaurant M.H. Jalis, A.R. Abu Kassim, N.H. Mohamad Pages 293-299

Emotional Labor and Burnout at Work: A Study from Turkey Nuran Bayram, Serpil Aytac, Salih Dursun Pages 300-305

Improving the Quality of Asbestos Roofing at PT BBI using Six Sigma Methodology Jonny, Jessika Christyanti Pages 306-312

Critical Factors and Consumption Patterns of Pergamon Museum's Visitors (Berlin, Germany) Javier de Esteban Curiel, Arta Antonovica, Carmelo Mercado Idoeta Pages 313-320

The Communication of Director's Remuneration Norhani Aripin, Basariah Salim, Hasnah Kamardin, Noriah Che Adam Pages 321-326

Corporate Social Responsibility: What can we Learn from the Stakeholders? Salmi Mohd Isa Pages 327-337

Jansenism Thought in François Mauriac's Novel: Le Baiser au Lépreux Muthia Aisha Chandra Pages 338-343

Tax Non-Compliance Behaviour: Taxpayers View Natrah Saad Pages 344-351

Understanding Relationship between Personality Types, Marketing-mix Factors, and Purchasing Decisions Irna Azzadina, Aulia Nurul Huda, Corinthias Pamatang Morgana Sianipar Pages 352-357

The Moderating Effect of Medical Travel Facilitators in Medical Tourism Wan Normila Mohamad, Azizah Omar, Mahmod Sabri Haron Pages 358-363 Biometrics Technologies Implementation in Internet Banking Reduce Security Issues? M.K. Normalini, T. Ramayah Pages 364-369

How is Commercial Gender Categorization of Perfumes Related to Consumers Preference of Fragrances? Anna Lindqvist Pages 370-374

The Design and Evaluation of a Knowledge-intensive System Agus Gunawan, Jaap van den Herik, Mohamed A. Wahdan, Bartel Van de Walle, Asdi Athuri Aulia Pages 375-380

Intranet Portal Utilization: Monitoring Tool for Productivity - Quality and Acceptance Point of View Fardzah Sulaiman, Suhaiza Zailani, T. Ramayah Pages 381-386

Cultural Landscape for Sustainable Tourism Case Study of Amphawa Community Siriporn Luekveerawattana Pages 387-396

Continued Usage Intention of E-Filing System in Malaysia: The Role of Optimism Bias T. Santhanamery, T. Ramayah Pages 397-403

Playfulness and Creativity: A Look at Language use Online in Malaysia Zaemah Abdul Kadir, Hayati Idris, Sharifah Shahnaz Syed Husain Pages 404-409

Behavioural Economics Approach on Consumer Brand Choice—An Individual Analysis Zurina Mohaidin Pages 410-418

Institutional Monitoring and Earnings Quality in Malaysia Hafiza Aishah Hashim, S. Susela Devi Pages 419-426

Supply Chain Risk Management in Shrimp Industry before and during Mud Volcano Disaster: An Initial Concept Achmad Room Fitrianto, Suryadi Hadi Pages 427-435

Global Prospects for the Development of Unconventional Gas Jan Bocora Pages 436-442

The Development of Model on Operational Capabilities of IT Vendor Serving Offshore Services: Case Study in an Indonesian IT Company

Rajesri Govindaraju, Kristianto Lukman Pages 443-448

Relationship of Consumer Involvement, Credibility of the Source of Information and Consumer Satisfaction on Purchase Decision of Non-Prescription Drugs Angga P. Kautsar, Sunu Widianto, Rizky Abdulah, Hesti Amalia Pages 449-454

Malaysia Women Survivors' Perspective on Healing from Childhood Sexual Abuse through Spirituality Nicole Chen Lee Ping, Melati Sumari Pages 455-461

Performance Improvement Suggestions for Ground Handling using Lean Solutions Approach Ibrahim A. Nugroho, Ustica H. Riastuti, Hardianto Iridiastadi Pages 462-467

Industrial Hygiene Programs Design in the Oil & Gas Company Hanna Shofa Zahara, Sella Mushalia, Ir.Hardianto Iridiastadi Pages 468-472

Enterprise Systems Implementation Framework: An Organisational Perspective Rajesri Govindaraju Pages 473-478

Effects of Wellness Programs on Job Satisfaction, Stress and Absenteeism between Two Groups of Employees (Attended and Not Attended) Dayang Nailul Munna Abg Abdullah, Oon Yin Lee Pages 479-484

Boosting Lean Production via TPM Adnan Hj. Bakri, Abdul Rahman Abdul Rahim, Noordin Mohd. Yusof, Ramli Ahmad Pages 485-491

Standards Issuance for Islamic Finance in International Trade: Current Issues and Challenges Ahead Hakimah Yaacob, Apnizan Abdullah Pages 492-497

An Un-American Foreign Policy: The Peace Corps Overseas, 1961–71 Junald Dawa Ango Pages 498-504

Female Prisoners in Malaysia: An Examination of Socio demographic Characteristics Rachel Samuel, Roaimah Omar Pages 505-510

Surveying on the Cultural Approaches for the Melaka Malay Houses Roslan Talib, Mzailan Sulieman Pages 511-516

Social Media Contribution Towards Ethnocentrism Abdul Rauf Ridzuan, Jusang Bolong, Siti Zobidah Omar, Mohd Nizam Osman, ... Siti Faidul Maisarah Abdullah Pages 517-522

The Influence of Consumer Socialization on Brand Loyalty: Survey on Malaysian Fast Food Consumer Nor Diyana Mohammed Shobri, Samsudin Wahab, Nor Lela Ahmad, Nur Rabitah Naqsa bt 'Ain Pages 523-529

Marketingfocus on the Generation 50plus Krisztina Szarka, Nándor Dúl Pages 530-534

Risk Management via Takaful from a Perspective of Maqasid of Shariah Syahida Abdullah Pages 535-541

Retail Banking and Customer Relationship Quality Issues in Indonesia Syafrizal, Nabsiah Abdul Wahid, Ishak Ismail Pages 542-548

The Sources of Happiness to the Malaysians and Indonesians: Data from a Smaller Nation Jas Laile Jaafar, Mohd Awang Idris, Jamal Ismuni, Yoo Fei, ... Yogi Suprayogi Sugandi Pages 549-556

Do Credit Channel and Interest Rate Channel Play Important Role in Monetary Transmission Mechanism in Indonesia?: A Structural Vector Autoregression Model Ries Wulandari Pages 557-563

Work/Family Conflict: The Link between Self-Esteem and Satisfaction Outcomes Wan Edura Wan Rashid, Mohamad Sahari Nordin, Azura Omar, Izhairi Ismail Pages 564-569

Assessing the Relationship among Six Sigma, Absorptive Capacity and Innovation Performance Maha Yusr, Abdul Rahim Othman, Sany Sanuri Mohd Mokhtar Pages 570-578

Library and Information Sciences: Perspectives of Students on Fair use Literacy under Section 34 of the Thai Copyright Act B.E. 2537 (1994) in Library and Information Science Profession Subject at Department of Library and Information Science, Suansunandha Rajabhat University Thanakorn Uiphanit, Aekkaphb Intraphoo, Jade Donavanik Pages 579-586 A Proposed Model on Environmental Stewardship Muhammad Hafiz Azizan, Nabsiah Abdul Wahid Pages 587-592

Insurability and Suicide: Shariah Issues in Underwriting Asmak Ab Rahman, Wan Marhaini Wan Ahmad, Shamsiah Mohamad, Rusnah Muhamad Pages 593-601

Process Evaluation of Healthy Living Website for Children Siti Maon, Sisira Edirippulige Pages 602-607

Logistics Information System for Supply Chain of Agricultural Commodity Yandra Rahadian Perdana Pages 608-613

Adoption of Supply Chain Management in SMEs Thoo Ai Chin, Abu Bakar Abdul Hamid, Amran Rasli, Rohaizat Baharun Pages 614-619

The Outlook of the UGC on the Implementation of e-learning System at the Higher Educational Institutions in Sri Lanka Mohamed Hussain Thowfeek, Azizah Jaafar Pages 620-625

3R s Critical Success Factor in Solid Waste Management System for Higher Educational Institutions Jibril Dan azimi Jibril, Ibrahim Bin Sipan, Maimunah Sapri, Suleiman Aliyu Shika, ... Shahabudin Abdullah Pages 626-631

The Multiple Responsibilities of and within Organizations: An Interpretation of the Structure of W. Edwards Deming's Quality System Including the Correlation of Personality Roles with Quality "Points" Frank J. Lucatelli Pages 632-637

Aggressive Financial Reporting and Corporate Fraud Khairul Anuar Kamarudin, Wan Adibah Wan Ismail, Wan Asma Hanim Wan Mustapha Pages 638-643

Developing Post Occupancy Evaluation Sustainability Assessment Framework for Retrofitting Commercial Office Buildings: A Proposal Suleiman Aliyu Shika, Maimunah Sapri, Jibril Dan'azimi Jibril, Ibrahim Sipan, Shahabudin Abdullah Pages 644-649

Assessment of Earnings Conservatism in Government-Linked Companies Wan Adibah Wan Ismail, Khairul Anuar Kamarudin, Rohana Othman Pages 650-655

Exploring Islamic Website Features that Influence user Satisfaction: A Conceptual Model

Mansur Aliyu, Murni Mahmud, Abu Osman Md Tap Pages 656-661

The Construct of Sukuk, Rating and Default Risk Nor Balkish Zakaria, Mohamad Azwan Md Isa, Rabiatul Alawiyah Zainal Abidin Pages 662-667

The Impact of Subprime Mortgage Crisis on Islamic Banking and Islamic Stock Market Bakri Abdul Karim, Wong Siew Lee, Zulkefly Abdul Karim, Mohamad Jais Pages 668-673

E-KMS: A KM Tool for Educational ERP System Anubhav Kumar, P.C. Gupta Pages 682-687

Quality Management Maintenance and Practices-Technical and Non-Technical Approaches Tiong Kung Leong, Norhayati Zakuan, Muhamad Zameri Mat Saman Pages 688-696

Framework for Enhancing Cost Management of Building Services Ganiyu Amuda Yusuf, Sarajul Fikri Mohamed, Zakaria Mohd Yusof, Mohd Saidin Misnan Pages 697-703

Work Values of Generation Y Preservice Teachers in Malaysia Ching Sock Lee, Daisy Kee Mui Hung, Tan Cheng Ling Pages 704-710

Typology of Resources and Capabilities for Firms' Performance Noorliza Karia, Chee Yew Wong, Muhammad Hasmi Abu Hassan Asaari Pages 711-716

Malaysian Outward FDI and Economic Growth Jen-Eem Chen, Shaliza Azreen Mohd Zulkifli Pages 717-722

Sexual Harassment: A Predictor to Job Satisfaction and Work Stress among Women Employees Fonny Hutagalung, Zahari Ishak Pages 723-730

Delving into the Issues of Entrepreneurial Attitude Orientation and Market Orientation among the SMEs—A Conceptual Paper Ainul Mohsein Abdul-Mohsin, Hasliza Abdul-Halim, Noor Hazlina Ahmad Pages 731-736

E-Assessment as a Self-Test Quiz Tool: The Setting Features and Formative Use Yong-Wee Sek, Check-Yee Law, Tze-Hui Liew, Syariffanor Bt Hisham, ... Ahmad Naim Bin Chee Pee Pages 737-742 The Integrated Effect of Strategic Orientations on Product Innovativeness: Moderating Role of Strategic Flexibility Sabai Khin, Noor Hazlina Ahmad, T. Ramayah Pages 743-748

Analyzing the Role of ICT Sector to the National Economic Structural Changes by Decomposition Analysis: The Case of Indonesia and Japan Ubaidillah Zuhdi, Shunsuke Mori, Kazuhisa Kamegai Pages 749-754

Facility Management Competencies in Technical Institutions Mariah Awang, Abdul Hakim Mohammed, Mohd Shahril Abdul Rahman, Shahabudin Abdullah, ... Norazela Hamadan Pages 755-760

Exploring Online Sustainability Disclosure among Malaysian Company Azlan Amran Pages 761-767

The Relationship between Co-Creation Value and Facebook Shopping Nurhanan Syafiah Abdul Razak, Malliga Marimuthu Pages 768-774

Building Condition Assessment Imperative and Process R. Nurul Wahida, G. Milton, Norazela Hamadan, Nik Mohd Iezuan Bin Nik Lah, Abdul Hakim Mohammed Pages 775-780

The Acquisition of Soft Skills in Real Estate Program via Industrial Training A.J. Wilson, B. Ahmad Ariffian, Abu Zarin H Pages 781-786

Perceived Environment Uncertainty, Business Strategy, Performance Measurement Systems and Organizational Performance Elvin Bastian, Munawar Muchlish Pages 787-792

Interface Design for Cultural Differences Zurida Ishak, Azizah Jaafar, Azlina Ahmad Pages 793-801

The Implementation of Clinical Waste Handling in Hospital Sultanah Aminah Johor Bahru (HSAJB) Norazela Hamadan, Maimunah Sapri, Abdul Hakim Mohammed, Mariah Awang, ... Nik Mohd Iezuan Nik Lah Pages 802-807

Communication Responses of an Indian Student with Autism to Music Education Chiang Ee Fong, Ching Sock Lee Pages 808-814

Analysis of Workplace Learning Opportunities Experienced by Managers Vikineswaran A. Maniam Pages 815-820

Head of Program's Leadership Style and Academician's Perception towards Higher Learning Institution Students' Academic Achievement Nurul Hanim Mohd Amin, Marlita Mat Yusof Pages 821-826

Determinant Factors in Development of Maintenance Culture in Managing Public Asset and Facilities Suwaibatul Islamiah Abdullah Sani, Abdul Hakim Mohammed, Mohd Saidin Misnan, Mariah Awang Pages 827-832

Toward Modeling the Effects of Cultural Dimension on ICT Acceptance in Indonesia Haris Sriwindono, Salleh Yahya Pages 833-838

The Potential Growth of Creative Industries in Province of Riau Hutabarat, Zoel Pages 839-844

Using Algorithm Jean Meuus and Solrad Simulation Application in Determining Early Months Qamariyah Dadang Iskandar Mulyana, Mesra Betty Yel, Deni Syahreza Pages 845-853

Examining Dimensions of Electronic Service Quality for Internet Banking Services Mohd Shoki Md Ariff, Leong Ooi Yun, Norhayati Zakuan, Ahmad Jusoh Pages 854-859

Exchange Risk Exposure of Korean SMEs: Issues in Firm Location, Exchange Rate Type, and Exchange Rate Changes Size Sunghee Choi Pages 860-866

Moderating Effect of Cluster on Firm's Innovation Capability and Business Performance: A Conceptual Framework Wawan Dhewanto, Eko Agus Prasetio, Sudrajati Ratnaningtyas, Sri Herliana, ... Evy Rachmawaty Pages 867-872

Auditor Industry Specialism and Reporting Timeliness Shamharir Abidin, Nurwati A. Ahmad-Zaluki Pages 873-878

Sustainable Supplier Selection based on Self-organizing Map Neural Network and Multi Criteria Decision Making Approaches

Amir Hossein Azadnia, Muhamad Zameri Mat Saman, Kuan Yew Wong, Pezhman Ghadimi, Norhayati Zakuan Pages 879-884

Relationship between Transformational Leadership and Employees' Job Satisfaction among the Academic Staff Ros Intan Safinas Munir, Ramlee Abdul Rahman, Ariff Md. Ab. Malik, Hairunnisa Ma'amor Pages 885-890

Theoretical Postulation of Energy Consumption Behaviour Assessment in Malaysian Higher Education Institutions Mohd Hafizal Ishak, Abdul Hamid Mar Iman, Maimunah Sapri Pages 891-896

Corporate Social Responsibility and Company Performance in the Malaysian Context Saed Adnan Mustafa, Abdul Rahim Othman, Selvan Perumal Pages 897-905

A Novel Mobile Payment Scheme based on Secure Quick Response Payment with Minimal Infrastructure for Cooperative Enterprise in Developing Countries Hatma Suryotrisongko, Sugiharsono, Bambang Setiawan Pages 906-912

Impact of Internal Marketing on Operational Performance: An Empirical Study in Low Cost Carrier Industry Yudi Fernando Pages 913-918

The Influence of CEO Duality on the Relationship between Audit Committee Independence and Earnings Quality Khairul Anuar Kamarudin, Wan Adibah Wan Ismail, Mas Ervina Samsuddin Pages 919-924

Institutions-growth Spatial Dependence: An Empirical Test Stephen G. Hall, Mahyudin Ahmad Pages 925-930

Classroom Management: Measuring Space Usage Shahabudin Abdullah, Hishamuddin Mohd Ali, Ibrahim Sipan, Mariah Awang, ... Jibril D. Jibril Pages 931-936

The Relationship between Time Management and Job Performance in Event Management Nor Lela Ahmad, Ahmad Nizan Mohd. Yusuf, Nor Diyana Mohamed Shobri, Samsudin Wahab Pages 937-941

Knowledge Management System's Implementation in a Company with Different Generations: A Case Study

Ovi Novianto, Dewi Puspasari Pages 942-947

Benchmarking of Innovation Capability in the Digital Industry Togar M. Simatupang, Fransisca Budyanto Widjaja Pages 948-954

Identification Characteristics of Potential Creative Industry in Bandung to be Developed through Strategy of Replication Sribagjawati Suparman, Iman Sudirman, Joko Siswanto, Sukoyo Pages 955-960

Instructors' View about Implementation of E-learning System: An Analysis based on Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions Mohamed Hussain Thowfeek, Azizah Jaafar Pages 961-967

Finite-Sample Effects on the Standardized Returns of the Tokyo Stock Exchange Tetsuya Takaishi Pages 968-973

E-teaching Portfolio Implementation using Mahara Open Source Management System Sharidatul Akma Abu Seman, Wan Edura Wan Rashid, Hazira Mohd Nasir Pages 974-979

Analyzing the Influence of Creative Industry Sector to the National Economic Structural Changes by Decomposition Analysis: The Case of Indonesia Ubaidillah Zuhdi Pages 980-985

Identification and Analysis of Failure Attributes for an ERP System Anubhav Kumar, P.C. Gupta Pages 986-991

Determining Inventory Management Policy for Perishable Materials in Roemah Keboen Restaurant Andrian Nur Ramadhan, Togar M. Simatupang Pages 992-999

Examining the Predictive Power of Leadership Competency Dimensionality in Higher Educational Institutions Muhammad Iskandar Hamzah, Abdul Kadir Othman, Muhammad Hafiz Abdul Rashid, Mohamad Shahril Mohamad Besir, Nurhazirah Hashim Pages 1000-1006

A Conceptual Model for Investigating Factors Influencing Information Security Culture in Healthcare Environment Noor Hafizah Hassan, Zuraini Ismail Pages 1007-1012 Personality Traits, Work-Family Conflict and Job Satisfaction: Items Validity using Rasch Measurement Approach Nurhazirah Hashim, Nor Irvoni Mohd. Ishar, Wan Edura Wan Rashid, Mohd Saidfudin Masodi Pages 1013-1019

Tourism and Hotels in Sarawak: Economic Performance Dayang Hummida Abang Abdul Rahman, A.M Dayang-Affizzah, Salbiah Edman Pages 1020-1026

Discovering Knowledge Landscapes: An Epistemic Analysis of Business and Management Field in Malaysia Sameer Kumar, Jariah. Mohd Jan Pages 1027-1032

Social Cognitive Neuroscience, Marketing Persuasion and Customer Relations Deblina Saha Vashishta, B. Balaji Pages 1033-1039

Legal and Shariah Issues in the Application of Wakalah-waqf Model in Takaful Industry: An Analysis Apnizan Abdullah, Hakimah Yaacob Pages 1040-1045

Metropolitan Cities's Waste Transportation Model Asrul. H. Ismail, Yulita V. Usman, Nur Y. Hidayah, Laela Chairani Pages 1046-1053

A Comparative Study on International Marketing Mix in China and India: The Case of McDonald's Chan S. Yeu, Kong C. Leong, Lee C. Tong, Su Hang, ... M. Subhan Pages 1054-1059

The Oil PSA and its Inverse Effect on Human Resource Development (HRD) Will Hickey Pages 1060-1065

An Investigation on the Relationship between Online Distance Learning with Learning Usability Ahmad Nizam Mohd. Yusof, Nor Lela Ahmad Pages 1066-1070

Cost Effectiveness of Web based Learning Tety Elida, Widyo Nugroho, Ichwan Suyudi Pages 1071-1076

Gender Diversity in the Boardroom and Firm Performance of Malaysian Public Listed Companies M.K. Julizaerma, Zulkarnain Mohamad Sori Pages 1077-1085

Website Quality: Case Study on Local Government Bank and State Own Bank in Bekasi City

Henny Medyawati, Ahsin Mabruri Pages 1086-1091

A Priori Model of Students' Academic Achievement: The Effect of Gender as Moderator Low Suet Fin, Zahari Ishak Pages 1092-1100

Corrigendum to Islamic Work Ethic: The Role of Intrinsic Motivation, Job Satisfaction, Organizational Commitment and Job Performance: [SBSPRO 65C (2013) 272 – 277] Keumala Hayati, Indra Caniago Page 1101

Islamic Work Ethic: The Role of Intrinsic Motivation, Job Satisfaction, Organizational Commitment and Job Performance Keumala Hayati, Indra Caniago Pages 1102-1106



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Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences

Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences 65 (2012) 833 - 838

International Congress on Interdisciplinary Business and Social Science 2012

(ICIBSoS 2012)

Toward Modeling the Effects of Cultural Dimension on ICT Acceptance in Indonesia

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Abstract

The model of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) acceptance in developing countries is likely different from developed countries especially in terms of cultural dimensions. In this study we evaluate whether cultural dimensions have an effect on the ICT acceptance. We adopted Hofstede's cultural dimension (PDI, IDV, MAS, UAI, LTO) as influence factors to Perceive of Usefulness, Perceive Ease of Use and Social Influence which has been known as the construct of the Unified Theory of Technology Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) model. Research conducted on 302 respondents from the academic world in various cities in Indonesia. The questionnaire used in this study was developed based on previous studies that have proven validity. A two step modeling approach including confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation modeling were performed to assess the measurement model fit and causal relationships between constructs. The structural model was tested using SmartPLS. The findings indicate PDI and UAI have significant (p=0.01) effect on PEOU, while LTO has significant (p=0.01) effect on PU, and SI significantly (p=0.01) influenced by PDI only. Thus to ensure the successful acceptance of ICT in Indonesia, still needed orders from superiors and supportive environment or peers.

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Keywords: Cultural Dimension; Technology Acceptance

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1. Introduction

In recent years the use of ICT in developing countries is increased, and then the acceptance of ICT is also an important issue. It is envisaged to support the successful implementation of ICT. Until now, the use of ICT in Indonesia is still lacking. It is worth exploring the causes, why the acceptance of ICT in Indonesia encountered obstacles. Many factors have been known influencing the ICT acceptance, it is believed that cultural factors play an important role. Most previous studies conducted in the USA and Canada, when performed outside of North America found few differences (Rose and Straub, 1998). Cultural factors proposed as being important in explaining IT usage behavior. (Straub et al., 1997). Another theoretical reason suggests that beliefs and values shared by a group of people can influence people's behavior on the implementation of technological change (England, 1975). The interaction effects from the combination of cultural values in a specific country are expected to affect ICT acceptance in ways that are distinctive to the particular culture (Veiga, 2001). To date, cultural factors have not been prominent in the study of technology acceptance, especially in developing countries like Indonesia.

Addressing these shortcomings, this study will examine the role of culture dimension on IT acceptance in Indonesia using the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) model. The (UTAUT) model that strengthened the most prominent eight previous IT Acceptance model was introduced by Venkatesh (Venkatesh, 2003). UTAUT models surpassed any previous models in explaining the user's behavioral intention of accepting ICT. In consequence of its best explanatory over other previous models, the UTAUT model is utilized to examine the probable role of culture in the ICT acceptance in this research. More specifically, our research proposes to empirically examine the triggering roles of cultural dimension on ICT acceptance using the modified UTAUT model.

Cultural dimension used in this study was introduced by Hofstede, presently consists of five dimensions (Hofstede, 1980, 2001). His study yielded what Hofstede initially defined as four dimensions of national culture: Power Distance (PDI), Individualism versus Collectivism (IDV), Masculinity versus Femininity (MAS), and Uncertainty Avoidance (UAI). The 5th dimension, Long-Term versus Short-Term Orientation (LTO), was subsequently added based on a later study carried out in Asian countries (Hofstede, 2001).

Venkatesh conducted validation and comparison testing of all factors found in the previous Technology Acceptance Model and he identified that there are four significant factors: performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence, and facilitating conditions. These factors will be used in this study as a technology acceptance construct except facilitating conditions.

2. Research Objective and Research Hypotheses

The objectives of the study were to analyze the effects of the cultural dimension on selected constructs such as perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use and subjective norm and to develop a general linear structural model of ICT acceptance of Indonesian academicians based mainly on UTAUT model that would provide a higher learning institution with implications for better implementing ICT.

In accordance with the previously objective and consistent with related literature, this research tested the following hypotheses:

- H1: Perceived Ease of Use has a direct impact on Behavioral Intention to use
- H2: Perceived Usefulness has a direct impact on Behavioral Intention to use
- H3: Social Influence has a direct impact on Behavioral Intention to use
- H4: Perceived Ease of Use has a direct impact on Perceived Usefulness
- H5: Power Distance has a direct impact on Perceived Ease of Used (H5a), Perceived Usefulness (H5b), and Social Influence (H5c)

- H6: Individualism has a direct impact on Perceived Ease of Use (H6a), Perceived Usefulness (H6b) and Social Influence (H6c)
- H7: User Avoidance has a direct impact on Perceived Ease of Use (H7a), Perceived Usefulness (H7b) and Social Influence (H7c)
- H8: Masculinity has no direct impact on Perceived Ease of Use (H8a), Perceived Usefulness (H8b) and Social Influence (H8c)
- H9: Long-Term Orientation has a direct impact on Perceived Ease of Use (H9a), Perceived Usefulness (H9b) and Social Influence (H9c)

3. Research Method

3.1 Research Model

As has been noted in literature above, we can assume that different cultures can accept the ICT in similar ways but obtain a different result because of the culture. The relationships between the ICT Acceptance and its determinants, as well as the impact of culture are as below. After all there are three critical factors that are related directly towards ICT Acceptance. These are Perceived Ease of Use, Perceived Usefulness and Social Influence (Venkatesh, 2003). Also, from the literature, we found that there are four dimensions that could directly affect these factors which are uncertainty avoidance, collectivism, power distance and long-term orientation (Hofstede, 2008). Therefore, we propose a model on how culture could impact the ICT Acceptance as shown in figure 1. The model shows the relationship between factors of ICT Acceptance and the dimensions of culture.

3.2 Research Design

This research is cross-sectional and quantitative study using survey design. The questionnaire was developed based on previous studies related to UTAUT Model regarding the technology acceptance and based on Hofstede's cultural dimensions aspect. Cultural dimensions were positioned as the antecedent of the UTAUT construct. The Facilitating Condition and Usage construct had been deleted because the research performed was the cross-sectional. (Venkatesh, 2003).

3.3Research Sample

Data was collected from university academics throughout Indonesia. We distributed 800 questionnaires to the respondents of which 308 were returned, 6 questionnaires were incomplete, leaving 302 questionnaires for further analysis. According to the literature (Kim, 2005) and (Sekaran, 2006), the ratio number of cases to the number of free parameters which is 10:1 minimum. The free parameters of this study were 25 parameters, therefore the amount 302 samples were sufficient.

3.4 Research Instrument

In structural equation modeling, a distinction is made between single item variable and variables computed from multiple items. Single item variables are referred to as observed variables, while multi item variables are called latent variables. In this study there were nine independent variables consisting of nine latent variables. There were Power Distance, Individualism, Masculinity, User Avoidance, Long-term Orientation, Perceived Ease of Use, Perceived Usefulness, Social Influence and Behavioral Intention. Two indicator items each were designed for PDI variable, IDV variable, MAS variable, UAI variable and LTO variable, while four indicator items each for PEOU, PU and SI variable and three

indicator items in Behavioral Intention variable. All together, there are 25 items in the research instrument. The items were designed based on previous researches related to UTAUT and Hofstede s dimension. The reliability of the instrument is based on a Cronbach Alpha value which is more than 0.6.

3.5 Data Analysis

To evaluate the structural model, the data were analyzed using Smart Partial Least Square (SmartPLS), one of Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) software. This method is suitable for this study because the objective of this research is to test the causal relationship between the predictor variables (cultural dimension) and Technology Acceptance construct. Two step modelling was performed in this study. The first step is establishing the measurement model using blindfold technique, where the measurement model is revised and confirmed. The second step is testing the structural model using the bootstrap technique, where the direct relations among latent variables were observed.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Reliability and Validity

From Table 1, we know that the square root of the average variance (AVE) of each construct is larger than its correlations with other constructs. Therefore all indicators (items) are **valid**. From Table 2, we can see that all value of composite reliability are greater than 0.7 that's means all indicators are **reliable** to measure the latent variable. And the all Cronbach Alpha value more than 0.6 that means all items are **reliable** to measure the construct.

4.2 Hypotheses Testing

In this study we use 3 significant levels there are p < 0.01 (t > 1.645); p < 0.05 (t > 1.96) and p < 0.001 (t>2.58). The result shows, the most conspicuous is the MAS (Masculinity) had no effect on all constructs, quite compatible with the hypothesis. Meanwhile, LTO has an influence on PU only, UAI on PEOU, and IDV on PEOU (very significant). PDI has a significant effect to PEOU and SI, but no effect to PU, while IDV has a significant effect on PEOU only. Thus, there is a discrepancy between the results and the initial hypotheses. The hypotheses result can be seen in Table 3 below.

	BI	IDV	LTO	MAS	PDI	PEOU	PU	SI	UAI	SQRT(AVE)
BI	1.000									0.788
IDV	-0.229	1.000								0.877
LTO	-0.163	0.341	1.000							0.919
MAS	-0.186	0.757	0.310	1.000						0.900
PDI	0.181	-0.502	-0.265	-0.385	1.000					0.932
PEOU	0.244	-0.379	-0.204	-0.257	0.353	1.000				0.882
PU	0.316	-0.421	-0.321	-0.313	0.341	0.785	1.000			0.930
SI	0.331	0.011	-0.036	-0.021	0.192	0.164	0.208	1.000		0.879
UAI	-0.126	0.081	0.205	0.081	-0.133	-0.190	-0.111	-0.107	1.000	0.714

Var.	SQRT (AVE)	Composite Reliability	R Square	Cronbachs Alpha
BI	0.788	0.831	0.174	0.699
IDV	0.877	0.869		0.699
LTO	0.919	0.916		0.821
MAS	0.900	0.895		0.765
PDI	0.932	0.930		0.849
PEOU	0.882	0.933	0.203	0.904
PU	0.930	0.962	0.655	0.948
SI	0.879	0.931	0.061	0.902
UAI	0.714	0.670		0.643

Table 2. The value of SQRT(AVE), Composite Reliability, R-Square, and Cronbach Alpha of all construct

Figure 1. The Research Model

Table 3. Hypothesis Testing Result

		Sample	Т				Sample		•
Hypotheses		Mean	Statistics		Hypotheses		Mean	T Statistics	
H1	PEOU -> BI	-0.013	0.093		H7a	UAI -> PEOU	-0.146	1.698	*
H2	PU -> BI	0.266	1.647	*	H7b	UAI -> PU	0.053	1.302	
H3	SI -> BI	0.278	2.276	**	H7c	UAI -> SI	-0.086	0.939	
H4	PEOU -> PU	0.733	12.605	***	H8a	MAS -> PEOU	0.072	0.851	
H5a	PDI -> PEOU	0.200	2.791	***	H8b	MAS -> PU	-0.022	0.342	
H5b	PDI -> PU	-0.001	0.070		H8c	MAS -> SI	-0.078	0.574	
H5c	PDI -> SI	0.256	2.682	***	H9a	LTO -> PEOU	-0.042	0.613	
H6a	IDV -> PEOU	-0.302	3.374	***	H9b	LTO -> PU	-0.151	3.383	***
H6b	IDV -> PU	-0.080	1.202		H9c	LTO -> SI	-0.002	0.035	
H6c	IDV -> SI	0.205	1.601	-		* p=0.1 ** p=0.0	5 *** p = 0.0)1	

5. Discussion

MAS has no effect on any constructs, this can be explained because the value of MAS on Hofstede's score was 46 which is rather average, not assertive whether masculine or feminine (Hofstede, 2001). Therefore, in this study, MAS dimension has no effect to all ICT acceptance's constructs was understandable. While PDI (score 78) is a high score. This indicates that most Indonesian people are very docile and obedient to superiors. This nature can be carried on making a decision (Hofstede, 2001). Hence, it was reasonable when we find the PDI have a significant effect on PEOU and SI. Positive feelings towards ICT acceptance could be affected by the orders of superiors. Similarly, the IDV score is low (14), it means Indonesian is not individualistic but collectivist (Hofstede, 2001). In general, the Indonesian prefer to work together, as a group together. Therefore, an individual decision-making could be influenced by environment. The environment could be family, friends, co-workers, peer groups etc., Who always interact with them intensively. Thus, it is easy to understand that the IDV has effect PEOU (ease of use in using new ICT). Regarding UAI (User Avoidance), the degree to which people feel threatened by uncertain, unstructured situations and ambiguity, apparently UAI affects the PEOU. The use of new ICT for instance, could lead to doubts and fears, so the individual could not be sure to use it easily (PEOU aspect). LTO dimension, this implies that all decision-making to be considered whether it

will be more helpful or not. It turns out in this study, the LTO influence the PU (Perceived Usefulness). For example, if ICT is felt to bring a lot of benefits in the future then one can accept.

6. Conclusion

The finding above shows that the PEOU (as constructs of Technology Acceptance) are most heavily influenced by cultural dimension. This means that the use of ICT in Indonesia must prioritize the 'ease of use' matter. Then PDI and IDV has a very significant impact on PEOU. This means that the successful implementation of ICT in Indonesia is strongly influenced by the supervisor, leader or manager and the work environment. Therefore, to be successful, the employer must be ordered firmly by boss and will be followed by their subordinates. Besides the people in the work environment is also very influential. In short, the culture dimensions have an effect on ICT acceptance in Indonesia. Thus, to ensure the successful implementation of ICT in Indonesia, this cultural dimension should be properly addressed. For further research we recommend to try the dimensions of culture as a moderating variable between UTAUT constructs with behavioral intentions.

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