APCCR-2015

1st Asia Pacific Conference on Contemporary Research

VOLUME 01

Arena Star Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Date: 3rd & 4th of October, 2015



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Conference:

Conference: 1st Asia Pacific Conference on Contemporary Research (APCCR-2015) Chief Editor: Professor Piet Kommers Location: Arena Star Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Date: 3rd and 4th of October, 2015 Sponsor: Asia Pacific Institute of Advanced Research (APIAR)

Publisher:

Asia Pacific Institute of Advanced Research (APIAR) Suite 1A Level 2; 802 Pacific Highway; Gordon NSW 2072; Australia FAX: (+61) 02 9844 5445 Tel: (+61) 0420 963 175 Email: info@apiar.org.au Web: http://apiar.org.au

Document Information:

Document Type: Proceedings Paper Language: English ISBN: 978-0-994365-699 Copyright @ 2015, Asia Pacific Institute of Advanced Research (APIAR). **CONFERENCE NAME**

"1st Asia Pacific Conference on Contemporary Research, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia"

CONFERENCE CHAIR

Associate Professor Piet Kommers, UNESCO professor of Learning Technologies, University of Twente and Utrecht University, The Netherlands

PREFACE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR

As conference chair of the 1st Asia Pacific Conference on Contemporary Research in Kuala Lumpur, it is my goal to bridge academic, societal and economic perspectives. The Asia Pacific Institute of Advanced Research (APIAR) is a private, trust-based, institute which seeks to bridge the gap between academia and industry in the Asia-Pacific region. This region will be the dominate producer of knowledge on a global scale in the coming decades, and the institute seeks to link this knowledge production with applied applications for business and industry. The institute has commenced with the ambitious aim of being the preeminent organisation to link research with business in the four disciplinary areas: Business, Education, Information Technology and the Social Sciences. The institution is based in Australia, having as its objective the gathering together the diversity in advance research in these four domains through an open sharing network. This network offers the opportunity for academics to share knowledge across disciplines and anticipate in innovative sectors like management, business and industry. Instead of using the top-down approach from research into applications and dissemination, we need to conceive of alternative solutions for the large-scale challenges of tomorrow. Accordingly, this conference targets the definition of platforms for public/private ventures. The language of the various stakeholders may be different but the structure of perceived roadblocks and solutions will be convertible. The envisioned platforms can serve as a link between academia and business, presenting innovative ideas that may well have ready applications for the private sector. The institute seeks to offer logistic support so as to enhance knowledge dissemination across the region and the globe. To achieve this laudable objective, the institute offers training in research epistemology and organisational practices as well as in organising conferences. I believe we will have the chemistry of prosperity in our mindset, intellect and social ambition., and that the new Asia Pacific Institute of Advanced Research will show its uniqueness and vigilance in traversing academic, applied and implementation disciplines. I look forward to sharing our intuitions and social networks. Please feel welcome at the venue in the marvellous premises of the Arena Star Hotel Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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