Message from the Program Chairs and Conference Secretary

The Fourth International Conference on Cooperation and Promotion of Information Resources in Science and Technology (COINFO 2009) provides a unique forum for academics, researchers, and practitioners to come together to promote the exchange and dissemination of their experience and knowledge on theory and practices in emerging aspects of information resources. The explosion of information and communication technology has brought with it ubiquitous connectivity in enhancing globalisation. Enterprises are increasingly transforming themselves into virtual organisations by reinventing their structural forms and the way in which information flows within and across organisations. The key issue becomes how to manage virtualisation and information. This is the challenge that faces management today and, therefore, COINFO 2009 focuses on the theme ‘Managing Virtual Organizations and Information in the Era of Globalisation.’

We do not believe there is one definitive answer to the question of how to manage virtualisation and information. Rather, it depends on many contextual characteristics and circumstances too numerous to cover in one conference. This year we are pleased that COINFO 2009 has attracted a large number of professionals and academics from around the world to showcase the main aspects of virtual organisations and information management. We have received 130 submissions, from which only 73 papers have been selected. We have attempted to classify the conference research topics into four general tracks or areas of research. Each area contains several topics. The four research areas are:

Area 1: Information Systems and Management
This area of research includes topics related to theoretical as well as practical aspects of information systems, information technology, e-business, information security and confidentiality, electronic record management, and any other topic related to information management. Studies or applications relating to service and health care industries are welcomed.

Area 2: Virtual Organisations and Supply Chain Management
During the past decade, research on issues related to virtual organisations and supply chain management has gained increasing importance both on theory and practice. The conference welcomes paper submissions in all aspects of virtual organisations and supply chain management. Papers related to supply chain aspects of globalisation are welcomed. Topics may include, but are not limited to, theory, strategies, and application of virtual organisations, virtual team project management, logistics information management, strategic alliances and collaboration, trust and collaboration, procurement and outsourcing, marketing channels, and network configurations.

Area 3: Information Quality and Performance Management
Performance management is the process of assessing progress toward achieving performance goals. Without information quality, performance cannot be measured, assessed, or managed adequately. This research area targets research papers dealing with models, policies, dimensions, measures, techniques, and systems of information quality and performance management. Research related to the human side of information is encouraged in this area of research.
Area 4: Information Sharing and Open Access
With the advent of information technology and globalisation, the terms ‘information sharing’ and ‘open access’ have experienced increased interest and popularity. Therefore, we believe that, unsurprisingly, information sharing between organisations and open access of information to society has become as critical as oxygen is to human beings. This area of research deals with topics related to models, technologies, applications, and systems that govern information sharing within and between organisations. It also deals with all aspects of society’s open access to publications, media, and other type of information resources.

We have noticed two important features of the accepted papers:

1. Bridging the gaps between theory and practice is recognised by academics and practitioners as vital to developing virtual organisations and managing information.

2. There is also a strong emphasis by researchers on employing the concepts of virtual organisations within health care services and highlighting the importance of information quality for effectively managing health care services.

All submissions were reviewed by at least two reviewers. Members of the COINFO 2009 Program Committee worked hard to review submitted papers and to provide feedback to the authors. Members of the International Advisory Committee dealt with the speakers submissions. We would like to thank them for their effort, time, and most rigorous reviews.

Program Chairs

Dr Latif Al-Hakim, University of Southern Queensland, Australia
Professor Guoqing Chen, Tsinghua University, China

Conference Secretary

Dr Ying Su, Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China, China