

Introduction to Collaboration Issues in Cross-Organizational and Cross-Border IS/IT Minitrack

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In today's highly connected global economy, IS/IT is frequently deployed across multiple organizations located in various countries. Consequently, cross-system integration and collaboration technologies play essential roles and often determine whether or not tangible payoffs and business value are derived. Although, different aspects of IS/IT collaboration have been investigated for more than two decades, the international aspect of collaboration has received only a modest level of academic attention. The objective of this minitrack is to focus on the integration of people, systems, processes and infrastructure especially across organizations, borders, nations and world regions to enable productive teamwork toward accomplishment of mutual goals.

Cross-organizational and cross-border IS/IT collaboration differs substantially from collaboration in any single company. First, IS/IT infrastructures may vary significantly in terms of developmental stage and maturity. Second, regulatory, legal, social, and cultural environments may also vary substantially. Third, stakeholders in global IS/IT projects might have different or even conflicting goals and ascribe to their own definitions of project success. In addition, managing globally distributed teams requires a high level of coordination and collaboration that exceeds that needed for more typical virtual teams within one economy or region. Unfortunately, only a few studies have specifically investigated the linkages between global collaboration, business value and success of IS/IT investment. Thus extant collaboration models may need to be revised or new ones constructed, validated, and further refined in terms of the global economy and cross-organizational/cross-border collaboration.

This minitrack is a continuation from the HICSS-39 and HICSS-40 meetings in January 2006 and 2007. It addresses these issues and focuses on global collaboration processes and projects and their potential impact on IS/IT productivity, performance, and success.

The minitrack has six papers structured in two sessions. The first paper entitled "*A Dyadic Model of Interorganizational Systems (IOS) Adoption Maturity*," co-authored by *Mazen Ali, Sherah Kurnia and Robert Bruce Johnston*, extends an existing model of Interorganizational Systems adoption by inclusion of system maturity. The second paper entitled "*The Impact of Cultural Diversity on Global Virtual Team Collaboration – A Social Identity Perspective*," co-authored by *Yu-Ting Caisy Hung and Mary Thi Thao Duyen Nguyen*, examines the possible effects of cultural individualism/collectivism and language similarities on the collaboration process in virtual teams. The third paper entitled "*Interorganizational Collaboration in Supply Chain Management: What Drives Firms to Share Information with their Trading Partners?*" authored by *Maria Madlberger*, introduces a model which explains the effect of internal and external factors on information sharing behavior. The fourth paper entitled "*Determinants of IT Outsourcing Relationships: A Conceptual Model*," co-authored by *Daniel Beimborn, Stefan Blumenberg and Wolfgang Koenig* proposes a conceptual model that focuses on the identification of the relevant determinants for a successful IT outsourcing relationship. The fifth paper entitled "*A Cross-cultural Investigation of the Goal-attainment-likelihood Construct and its Effect on Satisfaction with Technology Supported Collaboration*," co-authored by *Bruce Reinig, Robert Briggs and Gert-Jan de Vreede*, studies the relation between users' satisfaction with collaboration technology and goal achievements. The sixth paper entitled "*Occurrence and Effects of Leader Delegation in Virtual Teams*," co-authored by *Suling Zhang, Marilyn Tremaine, Richard Egan, Allen Milewski, Linda Plotnick, Jerry Fjermestad and Patrick O'Sullivan*, examines the effects of delegation on satisfaction and motivation in virtual team settings.

Overall, the results presented in the six papers clearly illustrate that the topic of cross-organizational and cross-border IS/IT collaboration is timely, relevant and increasingly important to IS/IT researchers and practitioners.