Introduction to Global Virtual Teams Minitrack

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The Global Virtual Teams mini-track made its first appearance at HICSS 42. The large number of high quality submissions is testament to the importance of global virtual teams in both academia and practice. Global virtual teams are organizational forms that offer organizations unprecedented flexibility and opportunities in global markets. Team members may be dispersed geographically, temporally, and/or culturally and often are responsible for strategic and complex tasks. Team members from two or more different cultures, located in two or more different time zones and countries, and with different skills in the teams' common language, provide management challenges that may differ from collocated teams.

This mini-track focuses on the investigation of theoretical and empirical issues about effective management and operation of global virtual teams in today's dynamic business and technology environments. Our intention is to consider a broad sampling of research in the context of global virtual teams. The focus can be on the team construct itself, individual team member’s characteristics, or the enabling technology.

Four papers have been accepted for the Global Virtual Teams mini-track. The first paper explores social networking site technology (SNS) to facilitate the formation of global virtual teams. More specifically, the paper introduces how Virtual Organization Breeding Environments coupled with SNS infrastructure could contribute to the development of Virtual Organizations. The second paper presents a meta-synthesis on trust and swift trust in global virtual teams. The third paper uses a quasi-experimental field study to explore communication choices and culture in partially distributed teams. The fourth and final paper, examines how communication may affect the construction of a transactive memory system within a virtual team environment.

We are extremely proud and happy to be hosting the Global Virtual Teams mini-track. Welcome to Hawaii and we hope you enjoy the papers.