Introduction to IT Enabled Collaboration in Developing Countries Minitrack

Xusen Cheng
University of International Business and Economics,
Beijing, China
xusen.cheng@uibe.edu.cn

Xiangbin Yan
Harbin Institute of Technology,
Harbin, China
xbyan@hit.edu.cn

Deepinder Bajwa
Western Washington University
Bellingham, USA
deeinder.bajwa@wwu.edu

Collaboration theories and technologies, such as collaboration engineering, collaboration support system have been applied in many countries and regions for various kinds of collaboration. In the application stages of the collaboration system and technologies, Western European and North American countries have led a first step and achieved successful outcomes. However, as the world economy develops rapidly, besides the developed countries, the Developing Countries (DC), where many of the East European, Asian, African, South American countries involved, such as China, India, Brazil, and South Africa have raised a lot of attention in the use of collaboration technologies and acted more and more important roles in the intra-country and international collaboration recently. Technology enhanced collaboration such as synchronous and asynchronous computer supported collaboration, virtual teams, ICT, mobile collaboration, social media, have been used more and more in the collaboration research and application in the developing countries.

This year is the second year that we are running this minitrack “IT enabled collaboration in developing countries”. After peer review, we have finally accepted six papers for inclusion in the HICSS conference proceedings. The papers will be presented as two sessions.

The first paper is “OpenLabs - Open Source Microfactories Enhancing the FabLab Idea” by Manuel Moritz, Tobias Redlich, Sonja Buxbaum-Conradi, Sissy-Ve Basmer-Birkenfeld, Pascal Krenz, Babsile Daniel Osunyomi, Jens Wulfsberg, and Susanne Heubischl. In their paper, they try to study and update the latest information and figures about the strong growth of FabLabs, which is one emerging and promising approach for decentralized, participative and local, but worldwide interconnected value creation.

The second paper is “Investigating Trust Factors in Global Virtual Collaboration: A Case Study of a Manufacturing Company in China” by Xusen Cheng, Jianyue Liu, Jianqing Huang, Xiangbin Yan, and Yajing Han. Virtual teams have been playing a more and more significant role in organizational collaboration. Global virtual team has been widely used in developing countries, such as China, for their global collaboration. In their paper, they have established a case study of a global multi-national manufacturing company in China. Interview has been used to collect the data. They have attempted to analyze individual trust factors and explored new trust factors, as well as their detailed sub-factors in business global virtual collaboration. The findings could be used for future study of how to improve trust in global virtual collaboration.

The third paper is “Promoting Health Behaviors with Help of Online Social Ties: An Exploratory Study” by Yumei Li, Xiangbin Yan and Yong Tan. They have investigated health behaviors in the view point of online social ties.

The fourth paper is “A Personality Matching-aided Approach for Supervisor Recommendation” by Mingyu Zhang, Jianshan Sun, Jian Ma, Tailai Wu, and Zhiying Liu. In their paper, they have proposed a personality matching-aided recommendation approach to facilitate supervisor selections.

The fifth paper is “Research on Optimal Selection Strategy of Search Engine Keywords Based on Multi-armed Bandit” by Juan Qin, Wei Qi, and Baojian Zhou. They have provided a credible reference for advertisers to help them in choosing proper keywords.

The sixth paper is “Diversified Recommendation Incorporating Item Content Information Based on MOEA/D” by Jinkun Wang, Yezheng Liu, Jianshan Sun, Yuanchun Jiang, and Chunhua Sun. In their research, they have proposed a multi-objective evolutionary algorithm based on decomposition to recommend diversified recommendation lists to each user.

All the six papers have used different methods, techniques to collect and analyze the data, which is also related to different topics. The papers selected also covers the IS research field of technical and behavior part. Finally, we thank the submissions from all the authors and also the help of the reviewers for this minitrack. In future, we would like to attract more and more collaboration research papers from the world who are interested for the research and application applied for developing countries, or potentially could be used in future for developing countries.