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.


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