

EDITORIAL

Introduction

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This special issue of *Quarterly Journal of Electronic Commerce* is devoted to the First International Conference on Electronic Business (ICEB 2001), held in Hong Kong during December 19-21, 2001.

In the ICEB 2001, there were well over 200 paper submissions and 165 papers were accepted and included in the conference proceedings. These papers and presentations had contributed significantly to the field of e-business as it continues making strides in the new millennium. Although e-commerce has gone through its ups and downs in the past few years, there has no doubt that e-business will shakeup every aspect of our life in the future. On the other hand, researchers and developers have already moved ahead to investigate ways to integrate e-commerce technologies including coding and messaging, communication protocols, and mobile technologies with enterprise operations and business processes, all of which constitute what we call e-business. There is still much science and technology to

be discovered and applied. We sincerely hope the continuous success of the conference will engender the much-needed collaboration of research as well as debates on issues related to pioneer e-business research.

The great success of the ICEB 2001 should be attributed to a group of dedicated people. For this, we would like to express my sincere thanks to our conference co-organizers: College of Management, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan; Centre for E-Business, National University of Singapore; and Research Center for Contemporary Management, Tsinghua University. We would also like to thank Professors Ching-Chyi Lee, Xiande Zhao, and Baoding Liu for coordinating paper review and the production of the proceedings; Professors Timon Du, Chi-Chun Lo, and Dr. Jacqueline Wong for promotion and program organization; and Ms. May Lam and Miss Louisa Liu for their superb administrative support.

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Special thanks goes to Professor John D. Johnson, editor-in-chief of the *Quarterly Journal of Electronic Commerce*, who has dedicated this special issue for outstanding papers presented in the conference. We are honored to be the guest editors of the issue. After our initial screening, 19 out of 45 submitted papers were chosen for the double-blinded review process. Over 120 reviewers, mostly in the information system field, were involved in the review process. Thanks to the reviewers, five quality papers and one special note are selected to be included in this issue. The selected papers cover many e-commerce issues such as electronic marketplace, change management, website design, risk management, and e-business development in different industries including retailing, banking, and publishing.

The E-tailing paper by Professor Burton examines the reasons for the limited success of online shopping in both Australia and Hong Kong. Implications are suggested to the existing and potential e-tailers. Professor Manuel López Zafra compares the development of e-banking in Spain with the rest of Europe and the U.S. and has further identified the potential obstacles for the continuous development of e-banking in Spain. Through extensive simulation studies, Professor Choi and his colleagues

have presented interesting managerial issues in a supply chain with one publisher, multiple retailers, and an electronic marketplace. The remaining two papers are not industry specific. Professors Chen and Ching view the establishment of e-business model as changes in an organization and have proposed an organizational approach for implementing these changes. By comparing functional and non-functional features of web sites of top companies in India and the *Fortune* 500 companies in the U.S., Professor Jenamani and colleagues have developed benchmarks for evaluating the overall design of a website in their paper. Finally, the special note of Professor Wang reveals interesting e-business development and potential obstacles in Mainland China.

Our most sincere thank goes to all the authors who contribute their works to this special issue. Without them, the debut of this special issue would be impossible. Although the review and editorial processes have gone much longer than we have anticipated, we learned a lot from the processes and from the contents of all the papers submitted. We would like to once again thank all the reviewers for their efforts and valuable comments. We hope you will enjoy reading the papers as we did.