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Introduction to the Information Technology for Development Minitrack

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Information Technology for Development (ITD) research focuses on the use of information technology infrastructures to bring about economic, social, and human development. In essence, the ITD research provides insight for policy makers to facilitate the achievement of socio-economic development goals by increasing financial investments and stimulating business activities in their regions. Papers in this mini-track are invited for consideration in the ITD Journal which makes contributions in ITD research to what is known about improvements in the lives of people through their use of ICTs. In particular, innovative applications of IT in under-privileged regions, where resources are limited, comprise research contributions under this domain. ITD research also provides guidelines for businesses looking to use IT infrastructures to support their business strategies in these regions.

The minitrack aims to address these issues and make a contribution to how IT can be used to bring about economic, social, and human development. This year the mini-track accepted three different yet very relevant papers organized in one session. The first paper, "**Aligning IT Capabilities with the Information Requirements of International SMEs: Information Processing Theory Revisited,**" by Vincent Dutot, Francois Bergeron, and Louis Raymond, examine the ability of SMEs to internationalize to enable their survival and grow under globalization. The authors conducted a survey-based empirical study of 174 Canadian SMEs that have internationalized their activities in one form or another. Their results show that a better match between IT capabilities and information requirements does indeed exert a positive influence on internationalization performance.

The second paper, "**Steering Institutionalization through Institutional Work: The Case of an eProcurement System in Indonesian Local Government**," by Fathul Wahid and Maung Sein, used institutional theory to trace the role of institutional actors in the institutionalization of an eProcurement system in Indonesian local government. It draws on different streams of research on institutional work to develop an interpretive lens to understand what institutional actors do to steer the institutionalization process. It identifies a set of institutional work carried out by them in disrupting the old institution, and, creating and maintaining the new one. The findings give a better understanding of the institutionalization process. It provides a fine-grained conceptualization of forms of institutional work, and its constituent dimensions.

The third paper, "**Achieving Development Outcomes through Technology Interventions in a Nonprofit Organization,**" by Mehruz Kamal, focuses on an in-depth case study of a nonprofit organization in adopting and using technology through a contextualized approach. The fundamental belief is that nonprofits are at a disadvantage when it comes to adopting and maintaining current information technology systems due to a variety of challenges that they face. Results from the case are analyzed in light of their impact on socio-economic development.

These papers take the discourse of how IT applications enable development objectives to take place to a new level. Moreover, these contributions illustrate the innovative ways in which IT applications can bring about improvements in organizations and in the lives of people. They also extend what we know about how local applications of IT can affect the ways in which improvements can take place at a global level. Such is the future of Information Systems as we see it.