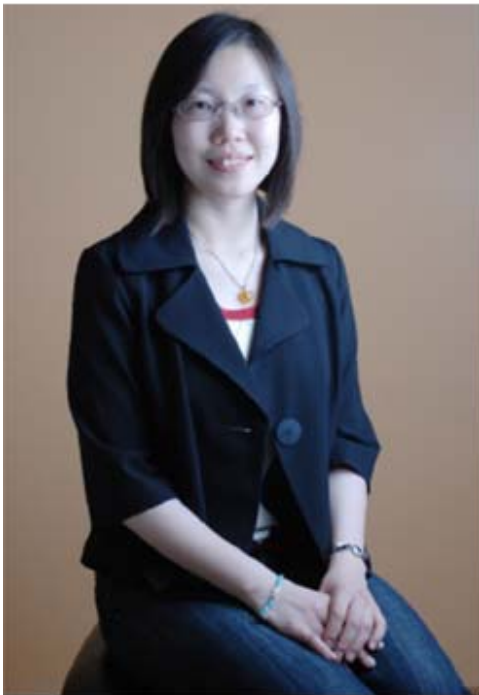


PREFACE



Welcome to the 17th International Conference on Electronic Business (ICEB) in Dubai, UAE. The theme of this year's Conference is "*Smart Cities.*" We had received 82 submissions and 49 papers were accepted into the final program that consisted of 11 sessions. Among them, 34 full papers, 8 work-in-progress papers, and 7 abstracts are included in this Proceedings. To avoid copyright issue, those papers whose authors intend to submit them to journal outlets are published in work-in-progress or abstract format only. The topic areas of the papers in this conference include Big data analytics and smart cities, Blockchain technology and applications, FinTech technologies and applications, Smart hotels and buildings, Social and cross-border e-commerce, eHealth and smart tourism, Internet and e-business, IoT technologies and applications, Online consumer behavior, Supply chain and logistics, Design science and service designs, Social media and multimedia designs, and other e-business research issues.



On the opening day, we had scheduled two keynote speakers: Prof. Patrick Y.K. Chau, Padma and Hari Harilela Professor in Strategic Information Management and former Director of School of Business from University of Hong Kong; and Prof. Eldon Y. Li, University Chair Professor from National Chengchi University and Asia University in Taiwan. They presented their recent perspectives in smart cities and multilevel research design. In addition, we were fortunate to visit Smart Dubai Project Office and warmly welcomed by the project team leaders. They gave us several lively presentations and showcases. All the participants found their achievements in this project very impressive and admirable.

A special event occurred during the conference this year we broke ground in using communication software to conduct two virtual presentations regarding data science and web mining. The two research projects were headed by Prof. Jim Jansen at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar. Because of the Qatar Blockade, His research team was not able to travel to Dubai for the physical presentations.

The annual conference of ICEB is an excellent opportunity for the scholars like you and me to share research ideas and get informed about the latest development in the fields. We could meet leading scholars from around the world so as to establish a research network and engage in future collaborations. In this conference, there were 66 scholars from 14 countries, including Australia, China, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Macau, Netherlands, Philippine, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and U.S.A.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your participation in this conference, without which it will not be successful. We also thank all the speakers, presenters, reviewers, the program committee members, and session chairs, who all have contributed their efforts and support to this conference. Special thanks go to our conference staffs, especially Ms. Zhen Yu, Director of Sun Light Tourism, who had planned and executed the conference events tirelessly and effectively. Finally, on behalf of the entire Conference Committee and the Novotel Al Barsha staffs, we sincerely wish that the experience during your stay in Dubai was very delightful and memorable and we look forward to seeing you again in ICEB 2018.

Cordially yours,

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