Grand Successes and Failures in IT: Private and Public Sectors

Bangalore (India) 27th – 29th June, 2013

CALL FOR PAPERS

(Conference web-site: http://ifip86.iimb.ernet.in/)

General Chair:	**David Wastell, Nottingham University, UK**
Program Co-chairs:	**Yogesh K. Dwivedi, Swansea University, UK** **Helle Zinner Henriksen, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark**
Organising Chair:	**Rahul De', Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), India**
PhD Consortium Chair:	**Jan Pries-Heje, Roskilde University, Denmark.**
Key-note Speaker:	**Geoff Walsham, Emeritus Professor, Judge Institute, Cambridge University**

Despite decades of research and the accumulation of a substantial knowledge-base, the failure rate of information systems initiatives continues unabated. The recent abandonment of a multi-billion dollar project to computerize health records in the UK provides just one spectacular example. Why is this so? Is the fault one of theory and inadequate understanding? Or is the problem one of knowledge transfer, the failure to embed research knowledge in the working practices of managers and policy-makers. The aim of this conference is to move forward our understanding of the success and failure of technology-based innovation and on the factors influencing the uptake of research knowledge in the practitioner community.

Perhaps our theoretical base is too narrow. It is arguable that some theories, such as diffusion theory and the ubiquitous TAM, have been over-represented in our work. Or maybe we have become too infatuated with theory, making our work inaccessible to practice? Papers addressing theory in a critical way are therefore very welcome, presenting and illustrating alternative conceptual lenses and standpoints. Whilst grand successes and failures are important, papers addressing smaller initiatives will be just as welcome; indeed, perhaps there is much to be learned from considering questions of scale. Extending the variety of research methodologies is another area where innovation could

assist progress. Finally, there are organisational and sectoral contexts that have also been relatively neglected. The bulk of our work has concentrated on commercial enterprises, yet the degree of contemporary IT-enabled change in the non-profit sectors is at least as great, and the challenges arguably stiffer.

Based on these general areas, some indicative themes might include:

- Theoretical alternatives to diffusion theory: institutional theory, actor-network theory, contextualism, critical theory, complexity theory etc.
- Empirical studies of "evidence-based management" , highlighting barriers and facilitators to the adoption of IS theory.
- Studies of emergent risk factors in high complexity projects, such as inter-organizational systems
- The influence of organisational culture and climate on innovation uptake, including the interaction between multiple organisational contexts
- Developments in diffusion theory to address organisational innovation as opposed to individual adoption decisions
- Ethnographical studies of change, and other intensive longitudinal investigations (e.g. historical studies)
- Studies using mixed method approaches
- Action research investigations emphasising partnership with practice, including the pitfalls of such joint endeavours
- E-government and public sector reform, emphasizing the role of IT as an enabler and the specific features of innovation in this domain
- Exploring novel intra-organisational contexts, such as non-mandated innovation at middle management tiers & the front line (e.g. skunk works)
- Success and failures of IS in the development context

Types of submission

Papers addressing any aspect of the conference theme will be welcome but this does not preclude general submissions that are relevant to the work of the Working Group. As well as full length research papers presenting mature investigations (approx. 7000 words), we would also welcome shorter position papers (1500 words max.) of a more polemical nature.

Bridging the gap with practice is an important aim of WG8.6. *Practice reports* (3000) from practitioners will thus be particularly welcome (e.g. case studies). Panel proposals and posters may also be submitted. The former should outline the aims of the Panel with details of participants; for posters, a short abstract (300 words) should be provided.

Publication

All accepted papers will be published in book form in Springer's Journal series: *IFIP Advances in Information and Communication Technology.* We also have agreement with the *Journal of Strategic Information Systems* (JSIS) to have selected papers reviewed for further development and possible publication in the Journal. Papers will be selected and developed in collaboration with the Editors of the Journal. Those that are ultimately accepted will appear together as a mini "Special Issue". Papers selected will

be in terms of their strategic focus and potential impact on research and practice, and for acceptance will need to meet the Journal's normal high acceptance criteria.

Doctoral Consortium

The conference will be preceded by one day doctoral consortium, to be chaired by Professor Jan Pries-Heje (Roskilde University, Denmark). This is intended for researchers undertaking a PhD or Professional Doctorate in areas broadly aligned with the main themes of the conference. Researchers may present work at any stage of their studies. The consortium aims to provide: an opportunity for small group in-depth discussions, supervised by senior IS faculty; appreciation of work in progress of other doctoral researchers; identification of cognate research related to participants' interests. Candidates are invited to submit a 500 - 1000 word abstract summarizing the aims, method and relevancy of their work, together with a brief overview of results if appropriate.

Important Dates

Paper submission deadline	5 November 2012
Acceptance notification	7 January 2013
Final camera-ready copy	28 February 2013
Early-registration	30 January 2013
Conference	27-29 June 2013

Further details of submission procedures, will be published on the [conference web-site](#) in due course.

The Venue

The conference will be held at the prestigious *Indian Institute of Management Bangalore*, India. Bangalore is now known as the *Silicon Valley of India* because of its position as the nation's leading IT exporter. Bangalore lies in the southeast of the South Indian state of Karnataka; it is a major economic and cultural hub and the fastest growing major metropolis in India. Bangalore is home to many of the most well-recognized colleges and research

institutions in India. Numerous public sector organizations, software companies, aerospace, telecommunications, and defence companies are located in the city. Due to its high elevation, Bangalore usually enjoys a moderate climate throughout the year.

Further information about host institution can be obtained from http://www.iimb.ernet.in/about-institute

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