Introduction to IT Enabled Collaboration in Developing Countries Minitrack

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Collaboration theories and technologies, such as collaboration engineering, collaboration support system have been applied in many countries and regions for various kinds of collaboration. In the application stages of the collaboration system and technologies, Western European and North American countries have led a first step and achieved successful outcomes. However, as the world economy develops rapidly, besides the developed countries, the Developing Countries (DC), where many of the East European, Asian, African, South American countries involved, such as China, India, Brazil, and South Africa have raised a lot of attention in the use of collaboration technologies and acted more and more important roles in the intra-country and international collaboration recently. Technology enhanced collaboration such as synchronous and asynchronous computer supported collaboration, virtual teams, ICT, mobile collaboration, social media, have been used more and more in the collaboration research and application in the developing countries.

This year is the first year that we are running this minitrack "IT enabled collaboration in developing countries". After peer review, we have finally accepted three papers for inclusion in the HICSS conference proceedings.

The first paper is "Designing a Mobile Collaboration Application for Student Collaborative Group Work: Evidence from China" by Xusen Cheng and Jianhua Yu. Recently, collaboration tools and techniques have been developed and implemented quickly in developing countries. However, there is a lack of research on mobile collaboration tools which are easily to be carried and preformed. In their study, they have presented the design of a simple Process Support System (PSS) by designing and developing an Android meeting application (APP) based on Collaboration Engineering (CE) methods to support college students' collaborative study. They have carried out an experiment among 75 students from 6 Chinese universities and evaluated the capabilities of the application with a survey and interviews. Their research findings suggest that this mobile application can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of students' group collaboration. They have also validated that CE methods are useful for mobile collaboration systems.

The second paper is "Scientific Collaborator Recommendation in Heterogeneous Bibliographic Networks" by Chen Yang, Jianshan Sun, Jian Ma, Shanshan Zhang, Gang Wang, Zhongsheng Hua. Recommendation system is important for scientific collaboration. In their study, they have focused on scientific collaborator recommendation system in heterogeneous bibliographic networks. In their study, they have proposed an approach based on the multiple heterogeneous network features, which has produced good results in their experiments based on a dataset of more than 30,000 ISI papers. Their method generates high quality expert's profiles via integrating research expertise, co-author network characteristics and researchers' institutional connectivity (local and global) through a SVM-Rank based information merging mechanism to perform intelligent matching. For sure, this could enhance the recommendation system and lead to better collaboration. Their proposed method has been implemented in ScholarMate research network (www.scholarmate.com) which has been used by National Science Natural Foundation of China.

The third paper is "The Influence of Social Capital in an Online Community on Online Review Quality in China" by Qiuju Li, Jinhong Cui, Yun Gao. Online community is also an important environment for collaboration. In their research, they have presented how social capital of reviewer affects the quality of online review. They have also considered reviewer's social network, indegree and outdegree, experience, activity and have built a theoretical model about review quality. In their data collection, they have used 1764 reviews in an online community in China to examine their hypotheses through the Tobit regression method. In their findings, they have found that the results not only make theoretical contributions for online review quality, but also help business to manage and apply online reviews effectively.

Finally, we thank the submissions from all the authors and also the help of the reviewers for this minitrack. In the future, we would like to attract more and more collaboration research papers from those in the world who are interested for the research and application for developing countries.

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