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Editorial

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Welcome to this issue of the Australian Academy of Business and Economics Review (AABER). This issue of the AABER features five papers chosen based on their conceptual merits each offering interesting insights into an unexplored issue in the world of business and management.

In the first paper, Iqbal and Milon (2017) examine the economic benefits of an eco-town for slums in Dhaka City of Bangladesh using discrete choice model. That study used random parameter logit and multinomial logit models to quantify the slum dwellers perceptions on the attributes of eco-town. The study found that attributes of the solar system, improved sanitation, waste collection, educational attainment, and age are found statistically significant and positive.

In the second paper, Krisnawati, Tobing and Sjarief (2017) present the competitiveness development of tourism human resources (HRs) in the ASEAN Economic Community. Using a descriptive qualitative research and in-depth interview from 43 hotel management representatives in Jakarta and Bali they found that beside core competency, there are other influencing factors including emotional quotient, local wisdom, and capabilities to HR competitiveness model for hotel industry.

The third paper by Senathissa (2017) examines the impact of an increase in demand for vehicles and crude oil on the exchange rate in Sri Lanka. This study revealed that vehicle and crude oil imports are positively affected to depreciate the Sri Lankan rupee in the long run as well as in the short run. A one percent increase in vehicle and crude oil imports affect the depreciation of Sri Lankan rupee by 4.6% and 14.98%, respectively, in the long run. Interest rate was found as an insignificant factor that affects the changes of exchange rate. Increasing export, promoting public transport system, encouraging fuel efficient vehicles could be suggested to mitigate associated problem with currency depreciation of Sri Lanka.

The fourth paper by Shantha (2017) examines the impact of uneven access to water on the divergence of income among paddy farmers in the dry zone of Sri Lanka. The study found that uneven distribution of irrigation water within the schemes and between the schemes had a significant impact on income and assets variation among rural paddy farms. The downstream and high water risk farms appeared more productivity than did the upstream and low water risk farmers mainly due to variation of water availability throughout the year. The income and assets accumulation inequality across upstream and downstream were significantly high. Finally the study proposed, that participatory water management policies are more appropriate than market-oriented policies to overcome water disparities within (and between) the schemes in Sri Lanka.

The last paper Siaw (2017) presents the perspectives of the standard working hours imposed in the health-care industry. The themes that emerged from that study were working hour patterns; standard working hours that may jeopardize the service quality and standard working hours should be legislated to doctors.