

Welcome to the eighth issue of *IJPPM* this year – our first anniversary as editors! What a pleasure it has been to read such a diversity of manuscripts, in such a wide variety of settings and different locations! We have eight interesting and wide-ranging papers in this issue with studies in Asia, America and Europe using a broad variety of methods.

Bowles and Gardiner present a case study of a manufacturing firm located in the USA. They combine process mapping with system dynamics to identify and recommend some improvements to the manufacturing firm processes.

Shawtari presents a study of ownership type, bank models and bank performance in Yemen. By using unbalanced panel data, the study concludes that bank models are significant indicators of bank performance. GDP is a significant indicator when it interacts with the types of ownership. The paper provides practical guidance for bank managers in Yemen.

Jääskeläinen compares different performance measurement systems according to different supply chain management practices. Using a multi-case study methodology at companies based in Finland, the paper provides insights from purchasing and supply management in order to advise organizations on how to improve their performance measurement systems.

Saini and Singhanian discuss another study using panel data from 255 foreign firms in India. They found that corporate governance and performance do not have a significant relationship. However, other variables did, for example, between GDP and performance.

Abdul Aziz, Foong, Ong, Senik, Attan and Arshad present a statistical study investigating the effects of: strategic orientation and market competition upon the uptake of green initiatives in Malaysia. Their findings indicate that the strategic orientation significantly influences the adoption of green initiatives, whereas the intensity of market competition does not.

Reis Neto, dos Santos and Verwaal's article presents the findings of a large-scale survey in Brazil, investigating the effects of cultural, social and psychological capital on individual job performance. Significant simultaneous positive effects were noted upon job performance, with psychological capital being the most dominant.

Sila describes a survey conducted in Turkey and Northern Cyprus, exploring the country and sector effects on the relationships among TQM practices and key performance measures. Greater similarities were observed between the countries, whereas more differences were observed among the different sectors.

Finally, our "Reflective practice" article by J. Singh, H. Singh and G. Singh reports the productivity benefits realized from the adoption of lean practices within a manufacturing organization in Northern India.

Once again, we are glad to offer an interesting and diverse intellectual content to our eighth issue. We hope you enjoy!

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