ABSTRACT

Much of the research in information systems and information technology (IS/IT) has been dominated by a U.S-centric or a Western-centric view. Research paradigms and models developed for the U.S. and Western Europe are just that, i.e., applicable primarily in the western context. Unsuspecting researchers have taken the same models and applied them to other nations, e.g., underdeveloped countries, emerging economies, transitional economies, and middle-eastern countries. The results have been misguided and spurious in many cases.

What is sorely lacking is a world view that tries to understand the major IS issues in the world in the context of their unique cultural, economic, political, religious and societal environments. A good understanding of the critical IT issues worldwide will be important from the firm, national, and international points of view. At the firm level, it would help management and staff in formulating business and IT policies and strategies. At the national level, it would allow policymakers and the government in addressing the pressing issues of the times. In international business, it would help firms and governments in responding to the needs of partners and stakeholders in other countries. A comparative examination across countries and world regions would help facilitate global understanding, cooperation, and knowledge transfer among many nationalities. In academics, it will provide a grounded understanding of international IT and provide a validated framework to launch many international IT studies.

The World IT Project is designed to provide a world IT view by examining important issues confronting IT staff and management, in many countries of the world. The proposed project requires data collection from different countries representing different cultures, levels of economic growth, societal and religious beliefs, and political systems. More than forty countries will be targeted for this research. In terms of scope, the project is akin to Hofstede’s research on culture and the GLOBE project. This presentation will provide an overview of the research framework, objectives, methodology, and the governance and structure of the project.

BIOGRAPHY

Prashant Palvia is Joe Rosenthal Excellence Professor in the Bryan School of Business & Economics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA. During his tenure at UNCG, Dr. Palvia has served as Department Head, Ph.D. Program Director, and Research Center Director. He received his Ph.D., MBA and MS from the University of Minnesota and BS from the University of Delhi, India. Prof. Palvia received UNCG’s senior research excellence award in 2005. He has worked extensively in the field of Global Information Technology Management (GITM) and chairs the annual GITMA world conference. Professor Palvia is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Global Information Technology Management, Associate Editor for Information & Management and is on the editorial board of several journals. His research interests include global information technology management, healthcare IT, organizational and societal issues, and security & privacy. He has published 102 journal articles which include publications in the MIS Quarterly, Decision Sciences, Communications of the ACM, Communications of the AIS, Information & Management, Decision Support Systems, and ACM Transactions on Database Systems, and 195 conference articles. He has co-edited four books on Global IT.