

9TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 2019

Contemporary Issues in Management and Social Sciences Research



CONFERENCE REPORT:

**19-20 July 2019
Champa Central Hotel,
Male, Maldives**



The **Global Academy of Training & Research (GATR)**, in partnership with leading international institutions including **University of Prešov (Slovakia), University of Kelaniya**



(Sri Lanka), University of Brawijaya (Indonesia), Elsevier (UK), Inderscience (Switzerland), Czestochowa University of Technology (Poland), Cairo University (Egypt), Kalasalingam University (India), Asia-Pacific Institute of Dispute Management (Australia), Triskati School of Management (Indonesia), Sriwijaya University (Indonesia), University of Dhaka (Bangladesh), State

University of Malang (Indonesia), Tanjungpura University (Indonesia), University of Antique (Philippines), and Independent University (Bangladesh), successfully organized the 9th GCBSS. Hosted by **Ms. Annelies Moens (Privcore Pty Ltd, Australia)**, the conference was held at **Champa Central Hotel in Malé, Maldives**, bringing together global experts in a dynamic academic setting.

The 9th Global Conference on Business and Social Sciences (GCBSS) successfully convened **experts from 32 countries** to address pressing issues across **Business and Social Sciences** through diverse sub-themes. This international gathering served three key purposes: fostering **global research collaborations** among scholars, creating platforms for **academic excellence**, and strengthening **research culture** both in Malaysia and internationally.



Dr. Kashan Pirzada, Chairman of the GATR Advisory Board, inaugurated the conference with welcoming remarks that underscored the **timely relevance** of the agenda to contemporary developments in **business and social sciences** research. Expressing sincere appreciation for



participants' contributions, he emphasized the event's potential to serve as a **catalyst for international collaborations**, stating his expectation that the gathering would evolve into an effective platform for fostering **new partnerships and professional networks**.

His address set an aspirational tone for the proceedings, framing the conference as both an intellectual forum and a networking hub for advancing research excellence.

Professor Dr. Gabriel A. Moens (Curtin University/University of Queensland, Australia) delivered a keynote analyzing 'Modern Slavery as a Human Rights Issue in the Asia-Pacific Region', emphasizing its global severity with particular focus on the region. His comprehensive examination covered: the **current scale** of modern slavery practices, **legislative responses** (both international conventions and domestic laws) and **corporate accountability frameworks** for mitigating risks. By critically assessing existing policies and proposing actionable reforms, he provided stakeholders with evidence-based strategies to combat labor exploitation while balancing economic development imperatives a vital contribution to ongoing human rights and business ethics dialogues.



Professor Dr. Danture Wickramasinghe (University of Glasgow, UK) challenged conventional research norms in his address 'Research: Doing it Alternatively', critiquing the prevalent practice of obscuring **ontological** and **epistemological assumptions** under the guise of scientific objectivity. He argued that the world cannot be reduced to a singular, objective reality discoverable through detached observation, but rather comprises **multiple constructed realities** requiring interpretive engagement. To adopt this approach, he urged researchers to: critically examine their philosophical positioning, engage with interdisciplinary scholarship through dedicated reading, and consult domain experts to cultivate nuanced perspectives. This paradigm shift, he contended, fosters more authentic scholarship by acknowledging research as an interpretative act rather than mere fact-discovery.



Dr. Ljepava Nikolina (American University in the Emirates, UAE) investigated how **psychosocial characteristics** influence willingness to participate in online surveys, addressing a critical research gap. Her findings revealed that **demographic factors** (gender, education), **behavioral traits** (social



media engagement), and **psychological variables** (extraversion, motivation type) collectively shape survey participation interest. This selective engagement pattern risks **sample bias**, potentially overrepresenting certain groups (e.g., extroverts, frequent social media users) while marginalizing others. The study highlights

That while traditional **demographic balancing** (gender/education) remains important, ensuring **sample representativeness** requires additional attention to behavioral and psychological dimensions—a crucial insight for researchers designing web-based studies to maintain **data validity** in digital research methodologies.

Dr. Hassanudin Mohd Thas Thaker (Sunway University, Malaysia) examined how **firm age** influences the value of analysts' recommendations using Malaysian market data. His



three-tiered analysis (young/medium/old firms) employed **market-adjusted cumulative abnormal returns (CAR)** and **panel regression** on Bursa Malaysia reports, revealing age-dependent patterns: young firms' returns correlated with **ROE** and **SPR**; medium firms with **TP**, **CFP**, **SPR**, and **MC**; and old firms with **TP**, **EF**, **ROE**, and **SPKLICI**.

Complementary **semi-structured interviews** with institutional/retail investors exposed critical gaps, analysts predominantly relied on **basic quantitative metrics** while overlooking **qualitative factors**, potentially compromising recommendation quality. These findings challenge the informational efficiency of Malaysian equity research, suggesting age-specific disclosure frameworks could enhance analytical relevance. Studying a sample of Malaysian analyst reports, this paper contributes to the body of literature by considering the age of firms and the value of information disclosure in the analyst report.

Professors **Gabriël A. Moens** and **Danture Wickramasinghe** led an intensive workshop on 'Publishing in High Impact Factor (SSCI & SCI) Indexed Journals', providing attendees with essential strategies for navigating top-tier academic publishing. The session comprehensively addressed: **journal selection criteria** for SSCI/SCI databases, **pre-submission technical preparations**, effective **response to reviewer comments**, and critical **ethical/legal considerations** in scholarly work. Participants gained practical insights into **publication tools** and resources, learning systematic approaches to enhance their research visibility and meet rigorous international standards. This hands-on guidance proved particularly valuable for early-career researchers aiming to publish in prestigious indexed journals.



The conference organizers extend sincere gratitude to all **plenary speakers** and **participants** who contributed to this international gathering in **Malé, Maldives** through their **high-quality**

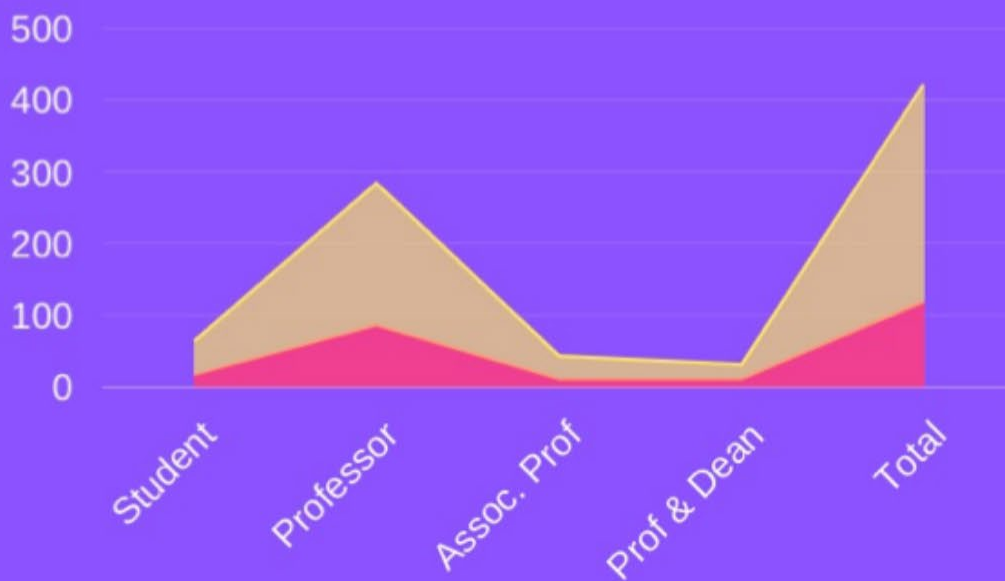


presentations and engaging discussions, creating a uniquely productive academic atmosphere. The **Global Academy of Training and Research (GATR)** particularly acknowledges the invaluable support of **students and researchers from the University of Malaya**, whose dedication was instrumental to the event's success. Their collective

efforts fostered meaningful scholarly exchange and advanced the conference's mission of global academic collaboration.

Total Submission and Acceptance Rate of The 9th GCBSS-2019

CATEGORY	SUBMITTED ABSTRACT	ACCEPTED ABSTRACT	ACCEPTANCE RATE%
STUDENT	49	15	30.61
LECTURER	199	84	42.12
ASSOC. PROF	33	9	27.27
PROF & DEAN	21	9	42.85
TOTAL	302	117	38.74



For more information, please visit:



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