

Preface

The 2016 Asia-Pacific Conference on Economics & Finance (APEF 2016), jointly organized by East Asia Research and East Asia Institute of Management and supported by BEFfore from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, was held on the 27th and 28th July 2016 in Singapore at the EASB campus.

The special theme for APEF 2016 was “Will the current oil crisis and China market slowdown result in a global recession more brutal than 2008? What are the current top global economic challenges?”

APEF 2016 achieved the objective of bringing together leading scholars, students, and practitioners from overseas to Singapore for an academic exchange. The programme consisted of an opening speech by Dr. Andrew Chua, Principal of East Asia Institute of Management, and two plenary lectures by Dr. Evan Lau, Associate Professor, Director of Centre for Business Economics and Finance Forecasting (BEFfore), UNIMAS, and Dr. HUSZAR, Zsuzsa Reka, Department of Finance at National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School.

A total of 60 registered delegates from the following countries attended APEF 2016: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Columbia, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, and USA. Participants were invited to submit papers to the present volume. We thank APEF 2016 conference chair Dr. Evan Lau, Associate Professor, Director of Centre for Business Economics and Finance Forecasting (BEFfore), UNIMAS, for coordinating the review of the submitted papers.

East Asia Research (EAR)

Established in Singapore in 2015, East Asia Research (EAR) envisions being the gateway to improving lives and enhancing productivity in Asia through promoting the cross-geographical exchange of ideas and knowledge in various faculties. This

will be achieved through the dissemination of knowledge from the Asia-focused research conferences and publications by EAR.

EAR academic conferences provide a meaningful platform for researchers, post-graduates, academicians, and industry practitioners to share unique insights and drive innovation. This is a great opportunity for expanding contact networks beyond a singular field and kick-starting a strategic collaboration. Such partnership can bridge the resources and expertise of multiple disciplines to spearhead pioneer movements, thus giving rise to breakthroughs in long-standing issues.

Kota Samarahan, Malaysia
Singapore
Singapore

Evan Lau
Lee-Ming Tan
Jing Hee Tan

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Lau, E.; Tan, L.-M.; Tan, J.H. (Eds.)

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