

## Special Issue Editors



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**Prof. Jason Fitzsimmons** is a Dean Corporate Executive Education and Chairperson, School of Business. Dr Jason Fitzsimmons is the Chairperson at the School of Business at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dubai as well as Dean of Executive Education. Before moving to Dubai he was spent a number of years in Singapore and Malaysia, firstly as Director of MBA Programs and the Alumni Relations Office at U21Global Graduate School in Singapore and then as Dean of the School of Business at GlobalNxt University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Prior to this, he was with the Brisbane Graduate School of Business at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. He has also had significant industry experience and was involved in several successful startup ventures. During his seven-year tenure at the Brisbane Graduate School of Business, Dr Fitzsimmons was the Chairperson for the Faculty Learning Environments Group, Acting Head of School for the Brisbane Graduate School of Business, Acting Director for Postgraduate Studies for the Faculty of Business and Acting MBA Director. Dr Fitzsimmons has a PhD (Physics) and MBA from the Queensland University of Technology with research interests in entrepreneurship and new venture finance. He can be reached at: [jason.fitzsimmons@manipaldubai.com](mailto:jason.fitzsimmons@manipaldubai.com)



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## **EDITORIAL**

This special issue of International Journal of Business and Applied Sciences (IJBAS) focusses on a broad range of articles from the discipline of 'Sustainability'. The issue contains a collection of five papers from the "1st International Conference on Crafting Foundations for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (CRFSID-2019)". CRFSID-2019 was organized by Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dubai-Campus on 22nd and 23rd February 2019 in collaboration with the Indo-German Centre for Academic Exchange and Applied Research of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India and Hochschule Bremen – City University of Applied Sciences, Germany.

The world is changing, with massive repercussions for business strategy and value creation. In this era of paradigm change, there is a need to form robust business strategies that incorporate sustainability as a foundation of business practices to create and implement resilient business strategies. Taking a step in this direction, this conference was designed with the theme of 'Crafting Foundations for Sustainable and Inclusive Development'. The objective of this conference was to explore various paradigms of Sustainability and Inclusion growth.

CRFSID-2019 attracted a total of 67 paper/abstract submissions covering active and emerging topics on sustainability from all the fields of academic arena. The conference program committee shortlisted 49 papers for presentation. After the presentation of papers/abstracts in the conference, it was informed to authors to submit full papers with the suggested changes within a time span of three months. Total of 14 full papers received within the given time. After blind peer review process only five full papers have been finalized for this special issue of IJBAS.

### **Acknowledgements**

First of all, we would like to thank the chief editor of IJBAS, Dr Yam Limbu, for accepting the proposal to organise this special issue after a careful selection of some papers presented at the CRFSID-2019 conference. His professional assistance was very helpful to achieve this issue in the best conditions. According to the IJBAS journal standards, a new review fast process has been organised and applied to all the submitted papers to this special issue on Sustainability. At this occasion, we would like to thank and appreciate to all the reviewers for their professional help and their contribution to the success of this IJBAS special issue. In closing, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the contributing authors for their cooperation and timely submission of the papers without which this issue could have not been possible on time, and to the referees for their very valuable and constructive feedback and critiques. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thanks to the chief editor of IJBAS, Dr Yam Limbu and Managing Editor, Dr. Ruhul Amin for their support throughout the launching of this journal. Finally, to our readers around the globe, we thank you very much for using this journal as your source of information and hope you will find it helpful in your research endeavours.

**Gouher Ahmed, Jason Fitzsimmons and Naseem Abidi**