
Guest Editorial

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This *Journal of Entrepreneurship* (JoE) special issue focuses on the central question of whether so-called appropriate/frugal technology research and innovation can lead to various forms of entrepreneurship in order to propose and implement concrete solutions meeting community, local and even national and global sustainability development challenges. Such solutions can be forged by private and public actors, including public–private partnerships among so-called developed, emerging and developing countries.

The very concept of this special issue is inspired by an Edward Elgar Publishing *Handbook of Innovation and Appropriate Technologies for International Development* issued in the fall of 2022. This handbook is co-edited by Philippe Régnier and Pascal Wild (University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland/HES-SO) together with eminent colleagues at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-Madras, Chennai, India), the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, Boston, USA) and Polytechnique Montreal (Montreal, Canada). Through 17 chapters, the handbook delivers a detailed overview of how the mid-twentieth-century Gandhian concept of appropriate technology and know-how for improving living conditions of grassroot people and communities has evolved over time from its early diffusion from India to the developing world at large. It experienced wide transformations led by the rise of emerging countries since the 1980s–90s, lately combined with the twenty-first-century global digitalisation era.

This JoE special issue includes eight articles, which bring the handbook discussion further, namely whether and how appropriate/frugal technologies can be initiated by various forms of entrepreneurship to

contribute to sustainable development globally, both in developed and developing countries. Based on various experiences and illustrations presented in this special issue, such entrepreneurship endeavours can pursue not only various commercial, economic and financial objectives but also cultural and social ones adapted to singular local ecosystems.

The special issue is structured as follows:

- The first article by Philippe Régnier, editor of the special issue, reviews the global evolution of the very concept of appropriate technology and its transformation into three successive phases from the mid-twentieth century until the global digitalisation era initiated since the early twenty-first century. Possible linkages with the more recent concept of entrepreneurship in its wide definition are mentioned.
- The second and third articles present how the early twenty-first-century socio-economic emerging rise of India and China induced either traditional and/or new forms of appropriate technology-related entrepreneurship endeavours both domestically and internationally.
- The fourth article deals with the very concept of frugal innovation and entrepreneurship for global sustainability entrepreneurship precisely, a proposal at the very heart of this special issue.
- The fifth article proposed by MIT colleagues together with partners in Ghana and Mexico aims to capitalise further on local innovation development, promotion and entrepreneurial ecosystems in developing countries.
- The remaining three articles are inspired by various scientific and technology research and development experiences led by one of the leading Canadian schools of engineering, Polytechnique Montreal. The first one by Samuel Pierre continues the discussion opened by the previous MIT article and focuses on the case of Northern Haiti. The second one also illustrates the appropriate technology and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the specific sector of health services facilitated by the introduction of ICTs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Finally, the third article deals with the discussion of ICTs and tentative Franco-Canadian distant e-book initiatives targeting African needs and potential publics.

Both Dr Sunil Shukla and Dr Philippe Régnier express their high appreciation to all the contributors of this Special Issue and to the JoE editing team at both the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India and Sage Publishers.

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