Japan's Digital Transformation in Management (TBD)

Editors

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Objective and Background

This book investigates current and near-future business management aspects of Digital Transformation (DX) in Japan, East Asia's most developed country. Despite a high level of economic development, education, and political stability, Japan has struggled to implement and benefit from digital strategies and technologies on a broad scale. Some organizations have been able to leap ahead while others flounder in paperwork and repetitive tasks.

Specifically, this book aims to understand what boosts or limits DX among Japanese businesses in terms of six lenses of focus:

- strategy, technology, organization, and corporate culture (Keuper & Hiebeler, 2013) as well as
- human resources, and external pressure from society and business partners.

These lenses provide the overall framework for the book.

The editors see DX as the primary activity, opportunity, and threat of Japanese business management in the near term. DX refers to the radical change accompanying new digital technologies and their implementation. Merely replacing analog and manual processes with electronic ones that function the same way does not result in DX. There may be improvement in speed and quality, but transformation is lacking. DX is the full realization of the power of digital technologies and the new processes they make possible and the new organizational cultures they inevitably spawn. Below are definitions authors might rely on, critique, or further develop in their submissions:

- DX is digital interconnection and adaptation of the organization to digital technologies internally and externally (Bloching et al., 2015; Rachinger et al., 2019);

- DX is systems level reorganization of socio-material structures due to digital diffusion within and among organizations due to multiple innovations (Bloching et al., 2015; Matt et al., 2015; Yoo et al., 2010);
- DX is radical change to the organization (Hinings et al., 2018).

Chapter proposals are invited with regard to the six themes mentioned above in relationship to Japanese business management. Specific topics may also include barriers and reasons for failure. A range of management topics will be considered including those mentioned in *Transforming Japanese Business: Rising to the Digital Challenge* (Khare et al., 2020), Routledge Handbook of Japanese Business and Management (Haghirian, 2016), and other recent publications on Japanese management.

The editors are seeking 15-20 chapters that bring understanding and new thinking to business issues around DX in Japan.

About the Editors

ANSHUMAN KHARE is Professor in Operations Management at Athabasca University, Canada. He joined Athabasca University in January 2000. He is an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow and has completed two post-doctoral terms at Johannes Gutenberg Universität in Mainz, Germany. He is also a former Monbusho Scholar, having completed a postdoctoral assignment at Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan. He has published a number of books and research papers on a wide range of topics. His research focuses on environmental regulation impacts on industry, just-in-time manufacturing, supply chain management, sustainability, cities and climate change, online business education, etc. He is passionate about online business education. Anshuman serves as the Editor of IAFOR Journal of Business and Management, Associate Editor of International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education published by Emerald and is on the Editorial Board of International Journal of Applied Management and Technology.

PARISSA HAGHIRIAN is Professor of International Management at Sophia University, Tokyo. She has lived and worked in Japan since 2004 and is an internationally renowned expert in international management with a focus on Japanese management. She pursued Japanese Studies at the University of Vienna (MA 1999) and holds a master's degree (2000) and PhD in Business Administration (2003) from the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration. She is also a visiting professor at Aalto University, HEC Paris, Keio University, Waseda University, and the University of Vienna. From 2011 to 2012 she held a professorship in Japanese Management at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU). She has published several books and articles on the topic of Japanese management, and is the editor of the Routledge Handbook of Japanese Business and Management (Routledge, 2016) and Business Development, Merger and Crisis Management of International Firms in Japan: Featuring Case Studies from Fortune 500 Companies (World Scientific Publishing Company, 2018).

WILLIAM W. BABER has combined education with business throughout his career. Currently he is teaching and researching negotiation and business models as an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Management, Kyoto University. He has also taught as a visiting professor at University of Vienna and University of Jyväskylä. Additional experience includes economic development in the State of Maryland and supporting business starters in Japan. He is the lead author of the textbook Practical Business Negotiation and co-editor of Transforming Japanese Business. Recent articles include Transition to Digital Distribution Platforms and Business Model Evolution as well as Identifying Macro Phases across the Negotiation Lifecycle. Negotiation simulations include Mukashi Games and Pixie and Electro Car Merger, both available through TheCaseCentre.org.

Some recent books from the Editors

Khare, A., Odake, N., & Ishikura, H. (Eds.). (2021). Japanese Business Operations in an Uncertain World. Routledge.

Haghirian, P. (Ed.). (2021). Japanese Management: Market Entry, Crisis and Corporate Growth. World Scientific.

Khare, A., Ishikura, H., & Baber, W. W. (Eds.). (2019). Transforming Japanese Business: Rising to the Digital Challenge. Springer Nature.

Haghirian, P. (Ed.). (2016). Routledge handbook of Japanese business and management. Routledge.

Audience for this book

This book is targeted at business academics and leaders who have interest in Digital Transformation, business management, business in Japan, and Japan in the context of new challenges of politics, disasters, accelerated emergence of technology and other stresses. Business students seeking to understand what might come from Japan or be welcomed into Japan will be especially interested in this book as will be business managers arriving to Japan from other countries as they determine what is possible or needed in their workplaces.

Call for chapter proposals and requirements

We seek proposals for the book that highlight how Japanese businesses are changing their culture and processes as they adopt new digital business models or adapt elements of their current business models to incorporate digital technologies. We look forward to proposals regarding all business activities, whether traditional or novel, as well as all areas of management.

The book will accept conceptual papers, empirical papers (theoretical or practical), and case studies, however preference will be given to empirical works.

Proposals shall include the following:

- Title of the Chapter
- Identification of the six main themes that your chapter handles, i.e., strategy, technology, organization, corporate culture, human resources, and external pressure from society and business partners
- One sentence statement of the purpose of the chapter
- Identification of the specific topics your chapter deals with, for example, but not limited to microenterprises, digital music, pop culture, legacy businesses, Leap Forward Organizations (LFO), Lag Behind Organizations (LBO), Cybersecurity, WfH impact, worker redundancy and reskilling in transformation, IT skills deficit, workflow and operations, compliance, distributed workforce, new workforce entrants, or other
- Names of authors, their affiliation, contact emails. Please identify the Corresponding Author with an asterisk (*)
- Extended abstract 400-800 words with key references
- Five keywords
- Bios of all authors (100-150 words)

All proposals should be mailed to the Coordinating Editor at anshuman@athabascau.ca before January 31, 2022.

Review Process

Proposals submitted will be reviewed by the Editors and an initial structure of the book will be created. After a shortlisting process, selected authors will be invited to submit full papers (about 5000-7000 words, though authors may be asked to shorten their submission depending on limitations set by the publisher).

Full chapters submitted will be peer-reviewed by a team of academics and practitioners from around the world. The review process will be double-blind, except where the book editors may contribute reviews. The review process will be coordinated by the Editors and an Editorial Board. The Editors and the Editorial Board members will be introduced when the call for full, final chapters is made.

Contact / Coordinating Editor

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Publisher

To Be Announced – the editors are in discussions with leading academic publishers where they have previously published (i.e., Springer, Routledge, and others).

Timeline and Deadlines

- Submission of proposals: January 31, 2022
- Announcements of selected chapters after review of proposals: February 15, 2022
- Receipt of full papers: August 31, 2022
- Review and revisions to be completed by October 31, 2022
- Preparation of manuscripts and handover to publisher by November 30, 2022

Financial Implications for authors

There will be no financial implications for contributing authors. A free hard copy and a digital copy of the book are expected to be negotiated with the publisher. The Editors will bear any costs that may occur. Authors will also not receive any royalty from sales (if provided by the publisher to the Editors).

References & readings

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