

Call for Papers

The 2nd Global Entrepreneurship Development Centre (GEDC) Conference 2017

Welcome to the Global Entrepreneurship Development Centre (GEDC) second conference to be held in Hangzhou China ! The GEDC is a global community on entrepreneurship research. It is the mission of the GEDC to raise levels of knowledge, theory and practice on entrepreneurship worldwide through the promotion of research. The current partners in the GEDC include: Kingston University, UK; Zhejiang University, China; UNC Charlotte, USA; Robert Gordon University, UK; St Gallen University, Switzerland; Turku University, Finland; EGADE Tec de Monterrey, Mexico; Universidad EAFIT, Colombia; University of Chile, Chile; Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile; Linnaeus University, Sweden; Tel Hai University, Israel; Makerere University, Uganda, among others that are planning to join us during 2017-2018.

Members of the GEDC are involved in joint entrepreneurship research programs, joint PhD workshops and conferences, faculty exchanges and cooperation. The theme for this first conference is **Silk-Road Entrepreneurship and Innovation** to be held at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China on 23-25 October 2017.

Plenary session & research-intensive workshops

A plenary session will be chaired by Professor Ron Tuninga with key speakers including, Zhongming Wang (Zhejiang University) and Robert Blackburn (Kingston) discussing the topic of *“Digital Entrepreneurship and Small Business Innovation* will be the opening session of the conference.

The Three-day conference will held at Zhejiang University campus with one-day session in the city of YiWu, the new silk-road city of the largest cross-border commerce and trading. The conference will serve as a platform for the GEDC members to network and discuss the further development of new theories and methodologies for better understanding of internationalizing entrepreneurial firms

facing new internationalization challenges. Only unpublished papers are invited for presentation in the competitive sessions.

A selected list of papers will be considered for further publication in **Small business Management**. This 2nd GEDC conference will include two best paper awards for competitive papers presented by PhD researchers or young scholars under 40, as well as the announcement of the next conference to be held during 2018 by another GEDC partner institution.

Doctoral Students, GEDC partners and Business plenary

Doctoral candidates are encouraged to participate and present their work in the main conference. Global Entrepreneurship Research Center will offer conference *fee waiver* for contributing doctoral students and scholars from the GEDC partners' institutions and potential partners. International entrepreneurs will be invited to join and interact with scholars and share mutual perspective on IE and SMEs themes.

Key dates and submission:

Submit your extended **abstract (about 1000 words) by September 1st** to the conference coordinator Dr Honghao Hu, email 3h@zju.edu.cn at Zhejiang University China. The conference has an organizing committee and an academic committee including;

1. Organization Committee: Co-Chairs: Professor Zhongming Wang (Zhejiang University) and Professor Ronald Tuninga (Kingston University).
2. Academic Committee: Co-Chairs: Professor Robert Blackburn (Kington University) and Professor Zhongming Wang (Zhejiang University).

The Academic Committee has a group of track chairs:

- (1) IE and SMEs internationalization in Latin America: Professor Sascha Furst
- (2) IE and SMEs internationalization in Africa: Professor Ernest Abaho
- (3) IE and SMEs internationalization in Asia: Professor Hang Do

- (4) Institutions and networks on IE and SMEs: Professor Luciano Ciravegna
- (5) GEM and new challenges on IE and SMEs: Professor Ernesto Amoros
- (6) Economy, SMEs and IE dynamics in Europe: Professor George Saridakis
- (7) Entrepreneurship competence and family business: Professor Zhongming Wang

Acceptance for presentation will be communicated by and after September 1st, 2017

Conference days: 23-25 October 2017. Accommodations arrangements will be circulated soon.

Conference Chair

Professor Zhongming Wang

Director, Global Entrepreneurship Research Centre

Zhejiang University, CHINA

zmwang@zju.edu.cn

Coordinator: Dr HU Honghao

3h@zju.edu.cn