Call for papers: Skills and the role of HRM – Change, Challenges and Competition in the Asia Pacific Region

Special issue of the Asia Pacific Journal of Human Resources

The Asia Pacific region has undergone significant transformation as a result of globalisation, technological change and increasing regional competition. The resulting short and longer term pressures will inevitably result in significant changes to most industry sectors with associated impacts on the number and nature of jobs, skill requirements, employment conditions, and labour market characteristics across the region. It is important that these challenges be recognised and addressed by government policy-makers, industry decision-makers, organizational leaders and researchers alike with a view to exploring appropriate future focused development strategies. These critical issues have been prevalent in the press and in government reports in recent years. However, to date, there has not been a specific focus on the role of human resource management in assisting the transitions associated with the various changes, challenges and competition currently occurring in the Asia Pacific region.

Hence, the purpose of this special issue is to provide theoretical and empirical research that helps to explain how human resource management can provide tools and strategies to manage the challenges associated with skills in the region. The editors invite papers which will enhance understanding of the topic, and which may include empirical research, conceptual papers, or case studies of current examples in practice. Papers may address the following themes although other relevant themes will be welcome:

1. The impact of competitive labour markets in the Asia Pacific region;
2. Identification of major future skills issues and possibilities for capacity building, promotion and realisation;
3. The development of frameworks for the creation of these future skills, and the accordant responsibilities of governments, industry, unions and universities; and
4. Proposals for research and industry agendas/partnerships to address the changes, challenges and competition.

In the first instance we are requesting abstracts (maximum 500 words) to be submitted by 30 October 2012. The editors will review the abstracts and, following this process, invitations to submit full papers will be sent to
nominated contributors by 30 November, with full papers due by 15 February 2013. Full papers will be double blind refereed. Authors should submit an electronic copy of their manuscript as a word file via email attachment to the guest editors (contact details below). Please see the APJHR website regarding style requirements. Abstracts (maximum 500 words) should include: title; aim/rationale; methodology (if appropriate); findings; conclusion/implications.

The special issue volume will be published in January 2014.

If you have any queries, please contact one of the guest editors:

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