Consent and Participation form

Combined Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form for Anonymous Online Surveys for Adult Participants

Study Title: The impact of entrepreneurial orientation, network capability and knowledge management practices on firm performance: the perspective of strategic alliance

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Ethics/ERGO no: 73224

Version and date: Version 3.0 26th Jul 2022

What is the research about?

My name is Zhebing Zhou, and I am a PhD business studies and management student at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom.

I am inviting you to participate in a study regarding how the entrepreneurial orientation of SMEs in China's strategic alliances affects their firm performance through different mediating factors. Researchers will use a theoretical framework to answer the following two research questions. The first question is how EO contributes to the alliance performance of the alliance enterprises in specific ways. The second is the degree of influence of network capability and knowledge management capability on alliance company EO, alliance performance and company performance relationship. Overall, this study proposes that a good entrepreneurial orientation under the regulation of network ability and knowledge management ability will significantly promote SMEs to better obtain resources and achieve alliance performance, thereby improving company performance.

This study was approved by the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC) at the University of Southampton (Ethics/ERGO Number: 73224).

What will happen to me if I take part?

This study involves completing an anonymous questionnaire which should take approximately 25 minutes of your time. If you are happy to complete this survey, you will need to tick (check) the box below to show your consent. As this survey is anonymous, the researcher will not be able to know whether you have participated, or what answers you provided.

Why have I been asked to participate?

You have been approached to participate because you are one of managers of a small and medium-sized enterprise from China's information transmission, software and information technology service industries.

I am aiming to recruit around \_300\_\_participants for this study.

What information will be collected?

The questions in this survey ask for information in relation to your self-assessment of your company's entrepreneurial orientation, network capabilities, knowledge management, alliance innovation, performance and success and firm performance.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

If you decide to take part in this study, you will not receive any direct benefits; however, your participation will contribute to knowledge in this area of research.

Are there any risks involved?

It is expected that taking part in this study will not cause you any psychological discomfort and/or distress, however, should you feel uncomfortable you can leave the survey at any time or contact the following resources for support:

zz10y19@soton.ac.uk

jp.tamvada@soton.ac.uk

What will happen to the information collected?

All information collected for this study will be stored securely on a password protected computer and backed up on a secure server. In addition, all data will be pooled and only compiled into data summaries or summary reports. Only the researcher and their supervisor will have access to this information.

The information collected will be analysed and written up as part of the researcher’s dissertation/published in a journal/presented at conferences etc.

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity. In accordance with our Research Data Management Policy, data will be held for 10 years after the study has finished when it will be securely destroyed.

What happens if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy about any aspect of this study and would like to make a formal complaint, you can contact the Head of Research Integrity and Governance, University of Southampton, on the following contact details: Email: rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk, phone: + 44 2380 595058.

Please quote the Ethics/ERGO number above. Please note that by making a complaint you might be no longer anonymous.

More information on your rights as a study participant is available via this link:

https://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/governance/participant-information.page

Thank you for reading this information sheet and considering taking part in this research.

Please tick (check) this box to indicate that you have read and understood information on this form,

are aged 18 or over and agree to take part in this survey.