

# Research Statement

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## Background

- I spent the last 3 years researching in the intersection of FinTech innovation, incubation best practices of accelerators and venture builders, and technology outsourcing as part of my PhD dissertation work motivated my prior industry experience of more than 30 years. My regular updating of my teaching materials for Global sourcing and FinTech led me to continue my search for questions that are relevant in these areas.
- Why addressing these research areas are important :
  - o Both outsourcing and innovation have been key to the success of the financial industry in terms of cost management and innovation propagation.
  - o The global competitive economies like Singapore, US and China are critically dependent on successful innovation investments for its future success and survivability. Good research findings will help societal resources to be effectively utilized.
  - o Governments and public agencies are investing resources to build these capabilities and good research findings will guide public resources to be maximized and channeled in the appropriate directions.

## Research Areas

### Incubation Practices Research Area 1:

- A research study was completed at the end of 2019 to examine the ten identified practices purported by both the incubation practitioners and the research community.
- Ten hypotheses were identified and tested based on a three-phased approach interviewing incubator practitioners and compare them against the research literature; empirical testing of incubators globally and empirical testing of start-ups globally.
- The results were enlightening as the study identified five incubation practices that contributes to financial success of start-ups and four incubation practices that relates to psychological success.
- The research also contributed to the clarity of the incubation vocabulary especially in an emerging field.

- The results provide significant guidance for start-ups, government innovation policies and investors in execution and prioritizing resources to areas where these practices are emphasized.
- If I can obtain a research grant, I plan to conduct further research to examine this phenomenon in depth by looking at the Singapore and ASEAN context; examining moderating variables such as size of grants and industry type that may impact the results discovered to date in the prior study. This is only possible if my track is changed to Practice Professorship track as being a senior lecturer with the heavy teaching load does not permit such sizeable research effort.
- This is important as there is lack of Asian-based research when Asian stakeholders (government, investors, researchers and start-ups) are investing significantly in the innovation space. The results will help stakeholders to hone in their resource and execution focus.

#### Sourcing Practices in FinTech Era Research Area 2:

- A joint paper with an MITB global sourcing student was written and submitted in Aug 2019 to IEOM to examine how sourcing is impacted in the context of FinTech.
- The paper proposed a new sourcing life cycle framework that takes into account the risks posed by FinTech.
- This is a hypothesis development paper of the new framework taking into account prior research as well as international standards.
- The paper was submitted in Aug and accepted in Dec for the March 2021 11<sup>th</sup> IEOM Conference Proceedings.

#### Selected Publications and Outputs

1. Joint paper with Assoc Prof Ben Gan has been submitted but awaiting for outcome for publication in the International Journal of Entrepreneurial Venturing entitled “Effective Incubation Practices for Accelerators and Venture Builders”
2. Joint paper with Tristan Lim (MITB Graduate) accepted on Dec 26 2020 for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Industrial Engineering and Operations Management (IEOM) Singapore Conference 2021” entitled: Outsourcing Life Cycle Model for Financial Services in the FinTech Era .