

## IT ACQUISITION: THE NEED FOR A SYSTEMIC IT STRATEGY

*Examples from Nepal and Venezuela*

Carmen Joham and Junelee Pradham

*University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia*

**Abstract:** This paper will explore the argument that some developing countries, Nepal and Venezuela in particular, would benefit from a national systemic information technology (IT) strategy that enhances and accelerates the processes of development. Furthermore, some of the issues surrounding IT acquisition in these two countries will be discussed, recognizing that a complex and dynamic interaction of common national forces and not the focus of a single factor must be considered when designing national strategies. Here the authors highlight a number of preliminary suggestions to incorporate an IT systemic approach (Checkland, 1981) for the overall socio-economic development in both countries.

**Keywords:** Nepal, Venezuela, information technology, developing countries, strategy, development and acquisition

### About the Authors

**Carmen Joham** has held a number of management positions where she has designed, programmed and supervised the implementation of information systems for business like General Electric, Mobil and IT Universities. She is also a PhD candidate and Research Associate at the University of South Australia's Information Systems Doctoral School. She was born in Venezuela and holds a Masters in Business Administration from the Adelaide University. She completed both a BA and a BSc in Computer Science in the University of CUMT-Venezuela. Her present research interests include information policy systems and strategies, social aspects of information for socio-economic development and Globalization issues. Carmen Joham can be reached by e-mail at Carmen.Joham@unisa.edu.au or by Telephone: +61 8 8302 0269.

**Junelee Prashan** is a PhD candidate and research associate at the Information Systems Doctoral School of the University of South Australia. She holds two masters degrees in Chemistry and Development Economics from Nepal (Tribhuban University) and the United Kingdom (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow) respectively. She has worked for the Nepalese government (Royal Nepal Academy for Science and Technology) in the field of science and technology policy issues for more than 10 years. She has also been involved in a number of national and international technology policy related projects where she has gained extensive

knowledge on technology transfer issues. Her research interests at present concern information technology policy and strategies in developing countries; and also the social, cultural and environmental aspects of technology acquisition. She can be contacted by email at [junelee.pradhan@unisa.edu.au](mailto:junelee.pradhan@unisa.edu.au)