Dear Participants, Guests, and Colleagues

It was a real honor for us to host you at the first „Challenges of Contemporary Economics” Conference. The Conference was scheduled two years ago. Back then, the possibility of us not meeting was unfathomable. However, despite the circumstances, we are glad we had a chance to organize the Conference in a virtual format.

Researchers from 20 countries (Bulgaria, Chile, China, Columbia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, UK, US) spoke during the Conference, and over 70 participants and guests took part.

We enjoyed the international sessions and discussions, which also tackled the issue of the pandemic and its impact on economies. We held two plenary sessions with keynote speakers, four guests who presented how to become world influential scientific minds. Seven editors-in-chief bestowed their knowledge on how to publish high impact papers and gave us a lot of clues and practical, helpful advice. We organized ten parallel sessions with 42 presentations altogether.

During the Conference discussions, we covered the issues of contemporary economics which include digital technologies, deep learning, economics, finance, innovation, communication, current and important topics concerning oil markets, women’s empowerment, leadership, strategic challenges, trends on labor markets, financialization prices, household inequality and poverty issues, productivity paradox, cryptocurrencies, effects of corruption in Africa and financial cycles in the economy.

We hope that our virtual Conference has resulted in valuable discussions and useful suggestions for further scientific work. The opportunity for us to meet and exchange knowledge and experience was invaluable.

This is not a goodbye letter, as the publication process of your papers begins after the Conference. Articles should be sent by the end of November. Detailed instructions on sending publications and receiving certificate of attendance will be sent to you by e-mail soon.

I would like to thank all of you for participating in the Conference, for your presentations and sharing feedback with colleagues.

Special thanks to the noble Guests for sharing their experience and advice on how to publish in prestigious journals and how to become the most influential mind in the world:

* Professor **Mario Ruiz Arturo Estrada** (University of Malaya, Malaysia);
* Professor **Lutz Kilian** (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, USA);
* Professor **Zenonas Turskis** (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania);
* Professor **Shaker A. Zahra** (University of Minnesota, USA).

More special thanks to the editors-in-chief for presenting their well-known Journals along with all practical tips and advice on how to increase chances for publication:

* Professor **James Fleck**, Editor-in-Chief of ***Technology Analysis & Strategic Management;***
* Professor **Fred Phillips**, Editor-in-Chief of ***Technological Forecasting & Social Change;***
* Professor **Corina Saman**, Editor-in-Chief of ***Romanian Journal of Economic Forecasting;***
* Professor **Dalia Streimikiene**, Editor-in-Chief of ***Transformations in Business and Economics;***
* Professor **Marinko Škare**, Editor-in-Chief of ***Economic Research-Ekonomska istraživanja;***
* Professor **Zenonas Turskis**, Editor-in-Chief of ***Technological & Economic Development of Economy.***

I also would like to thanks to the chairpersons:

* Professor **Alexandru Capatina** (Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Romania);
* Professor **Justyna Franc-Dąbrowska** (Institute of Economics and Finance, Warsaw University of Life Sciences — SGGW, Poland);
* Professor **Valeska Viola Geldres Weiss** (Universidad De La Frontera, Temuco, Chile);
* Professor **Darek Haftor** (University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw, Poland and Uppsala University, Sweden);
* Professor **Hafezali Iqbal Hussain** (University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw, Poland and Taylor's Business School, Taylor's University, Malaysia);
* Professor **Aneta Kłopocka** (University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw, Poland);
* Professor **Rafał Kusy** (University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw, Poland);
* Professor **Magdalena Mądra-Sawicka** (Institute of Economics and Finance, Warsaw University of Life Sciences — SGGW, Poland);
* Professor **Małgorzata Porada Rochoń** (University of Szczecin, Poland);
* Professor **Tomasz Szopiński** (University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw, Poland);
* Professor **Radosław Wiśniewski** (University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw, Poland);
* Professor **Jacek Woźniak** (University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw, Poland).

and keynote speakers:

* **Hrabrin Bachev** (Institute of Agricultural Economics, Bulgaria);
* **Katarzyna Bachnik** (Hult International Business School, Cambridge, MA);
* **Alexandru Capatina** (Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Romania);
* **Valeska V. Geldres-Weiss** (Universidad De La Frontera, Temuco, Chile);
* **Hafezali Iqbal Hussain** (University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw, Poland and Taylor's Business School, Taylor's University, Malaysia);
* **Carlos Eduardo Sepúlveda Rico** (School of Economics at Universidad del Rosario in Bogotá, Colombia),
* **Chi Wei Su** (School of Economics, Qingdao University);
* **Wing Suen** (University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong).

Moreover, I would like to thank the Organizing Committee for their engagement in the project and many hours of preparation and hard work – thank you:

* Professor **Tomasz Szopiński** from University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw
* Professor **Magdalena Mądra-Sawicka** and Professor **Justyna Franc-Dąbrowska** from Warsaw University of Life Sciences — SGGW
* **Marcin Zieliński** from IT Department of University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw
* **Oskar Zalesiński** and **Kacper Szatan** from the Support Team of University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw

Thank you once again to everyone!

Using this occasion I would like to invite you to the next edition of our Conference which will be held in two years – hopefully this time, we will meet on our University’s campus in Warsaw.

*dr Marcin W. Staniewski*

Vice Rector for Science

University of Economics

and Human Sciences in Warsaw