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Preface to the Journal of Smart Cities and Society issue 3(2)

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1. Introduction

Welcome to a new issue of the Journal of Smart Cities and Society. Here we include three contributions to the field, considering: tourism industry, smart warehouses, and smart factories:

"Use of Natural Language Processing to understand users' perspective on the Art Places / Places of Interest in Global Cities Singapore and Hong Kong", by X. Zeng, F. Ortner, and B. Tuncer, focuses on the importance of art as a representative of a country, as well on the role of technology to help highlight this aspect of a society. Hong Kong and Singapore were taken as inspiration. Natural Language Processing and Big Data analyses were used to identify areas that could be improved and aspects that were well-received by users in both cities. Studies like this provide support for decision-makers such as urban planners and art place operators to improve the artistic offer of cities across the planet.

"Configuration based on Industry 4.0 technologies as a step towards an affordable smart warehouse", by J. Ruiz, I. Martínez and C. Juárez, analyzes smart warehouses and their reliance on real-time data collection and analysis to inform decision-making and the benefits of using various technologies, especially Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things, to support inventory control, demand prediction, optimization of inventory management techniques, and minimization of warehouse costs.

"An investigation of worker decision-making optimization for smart manufacturing", by T. Castor, M. Gregg, M. McBride, and P. James, considers the increasing transition of industry into smart factories and the role of technologies in complementing workers' skills. This multidisciplinary project presents a framework that identifies factors at the individual and organizational system levels for success in smart manufacturing. A proposal is presented to design and train smart manufacturing workers and facilities for increased flexibility.

The editorial team of this journal expects the contributions included in this issue will provide new tools to address some of the many challenges ahead to realize this societal paradigm shift and inspire and guide other colleagues in this developing community to further innovate in this sector.

We encourage all sectors of society to engage in this technical conversation as our view of this area as a multidisciplinary one which will require the input of various different professions and different levels of involvement within urban environments to produce effective innovation.