



## Innovative and Strategic Approaches for Overcoming Challenges in the Construction Industry

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### Introduction

The construction industry, a major contributor to economic development, continues to face challenges and opportunities. This December 2024 issue of the Journal of Construction Business and Management features diverse research articles, bringing new perspectives and solutions to pressing issues within the construction industry, particularly how project success is shaped by the ethos of fair financial and contract practices, leadership, technology and price escalation. These articles were contributed by a total of 17 authors from Malaysia, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia, highlighting the pathway towards enhancing the sustainability, integrity, and performance of the construction industry. Although, the articles are contextualised on issues that are prevalent in developing countries, researchers around the world would find these articles useful for their additionality to theory building, scientific rigour and construction as a global discourse.

### Discussion of the papers

Hailu and Makgopa (2024) examine the critical role of subcontracting in construction in their paper. Their paper proposes a framework integrating strategic elements such as information technology and risk management to improve subcontracting performance in developing nations. Adopting this framework will enhance transparency, trust, and continuous improvement within subcontracting chains, ultimately boosting industry competitiveness.

Further, Abdulazeez et al. (2024) explore the effects of consultant performance indicators on the success of public construction projects in Nigeria. Their findings underline the importance of resource adequacy, competency and communication with clients as pivotal factors determining project success. The authors recommend strategic resource allocation and the involvement of qualified professionals in the construction process to optimize project delivery.

In Uganda, Kasimu et al. (2024) also explore the dimensions of participative leadership that contribute to the success of government construction projects. Their research highlights the significance of stakeholder consultation and joint decision-making over delegation, promoting a collaborative environment that fosters project success.

Moreover, Coleman et al. (2024) examine the challenges of financial risks in construction projects, using the Ghanaian construction industry as a case study. The paper assesses financial integrity risks, economic instability, and management issues. It highlights the need for strong financial risk management strategies to mitigate premature contract terminations and promote positive project outcomes.

Lastly, Tembo, Kahanji and Mwanaumo (2024) examine the sociopolitical and macroeconomic effects of tender price inflation in Zambian public projects. The authors present a novel tender price management model that enhances predictability and reduces cost overruns, contributing to more efficient resource allocation and sustainable infrastructure development.

## Conclusion

This issue of the *Journal of Construction Business and Management* provides insights into the challenges and innovative solutions within the construction industry. From improving subcontracting practices to controlling tender price inflation in public projects, the articles propose actionable strategies for fostering a more resilient and efficient industry.

We extend our gratitude to the authors for their valuable contributions, the reviewers for their rigorous evaluation of the papers and the editorial board for their continued support. We invite feedback and discussions from our readers to further strengthen the quality and impact of the journal, ensuring it continues to serve as a key resource for advancing the construction industry. We hope the insights from the articles presented in the volume will inspire further research and find practical applications to improve the construction industry's capacity to contribute effectively to economic growth and improved living standards in developing countries and globally.

## References

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