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**Asia-Pacific Family Business Symposium
Call for Papers
September 11-13, 2026
Perth, Western Australia (Hybrid Symposium)**

“Sustaining family business in the Asia-Pacific: the significance of learning, experience and resilience”

AFERN-Australasian Family Enterprise Research Network

Convenors: A/Professor Donella Caspersz (University of Western Australia), Professor Francesco Chirico (Macquarie University, ISE Research Centre & Jonkoping University), A/Professor Chris Graves (University of Adelaide)

Abstract Review Convenor: Professor Hazel Ramos, University of Nottingham, Malaysia

Research Student Consortium Convenor: Professor Pi-Shen Seet, Edith Cowan University

Family businesses are distinguished from other organisational forms by the overlap of family and business systems. Framed by this tension, a special issue in the Academy of Management Learning & Education asked how we can respond to the learning needs of entrepreneurial families, educators and advisors “for the development of effective initiatives for families, their educators, and advisors” (Salvato et al., 2015p. 309)? In this issue, the guest editors highlighted the need for more focus on family business learning in emerging and developing countries. As we know, family business in Asia represent at least 80% of all corporations and a third of the value of listed companies in Asian markets (Bennedsen et al., 2022) significantly contributing to progress in the region (Tomizawa et al., 2020). Yet, in what ways has our understanding of learning patterns and approaches to family business education in the region advanced since the publication of this special issue? How can we respond to the learning needs of family business in the region considering the latest issues, insights, and directions uncovered by research?

Further, business organisations – like family business – have faced considerable challenges stemming from the continual crises within the external environment. This includes not only the significance of health-related crises, but the continual adjustment to policy settings because of geopolitical tensions that almost daily change the parameters for business on how they create value. Though linked to the experience of COVID 19, De Massis and Rondi (2020) list five impacts of these disruptions that are of relevance to family business: leadership succession as an intra-family process, the source and composition of value chains to mitigate risk and remain sustainable, the continuing dominance of “family utility” as the reference point for decision making, how crises affect the “purpose” of family business; and finally, how do family administratively and organizationally manage their wealth?

While there is an emerging body of research that is probing how family businesses are managing these and other disruptive effects in management and leadership approaches; this scenario leads us to also ask how experiencing crises inform how family businesses learn how to manage and develop resilience to be sustainable in this dynamic scenario?

Informed by this background, the 2026 Asia Pacific Family Business Symposium invites papers that address the broad theme of the *significance of learning, experience and resilience in sustaining family businesses in the Asia-Pacific*. Suggested areas for papers to address include:

- What are the skills and qualities needed to sustain family business?
- What is the role of education by formal education bodies such as universities through research,



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teaching and translation of research to business family?

- What is the significance of experience in developing resilience for family business to be sustainable?
- How can advisors and practitioners contribute to sustainability in family businesses?
- How can nonfamily learn to be effective in sustaining business families?
- How can the next generation be prepared to sustain business families?
- What are the resources that are needed to promote learning in family business – and how should they be delivered?

References

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- Salvato, C., Sharma, P., & Wright, M. (2015). From the guest editors: learning patterns and approaches to family business education around the world—Issues, insights, and research agenda. *Academy of Management Learning & Education*, 14(3), 307-320.
- Tomizawa, A., Zhao, L., Bassellier, G., & Ahlstrom, D. (2020). Economic growth, innovation, institutions, and the Great Enrichment. *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*, 37, 7-31.

Submission Date: MAY 15, 2026

Submission Types: welcome from higher degree research students, academics, practitioners; in progress or completed research covering case studies, qualitative and quantitative methodologies

Submissions Details:

- Length: 7 pages and up to 2 pages of references. Include the following:
 - a. literature review and research question
 - b. conceptual/theoretical framework
 - c. methodology
 - d. contributions: empirical, theoretical, practical
- formatting: Times New Roman, 12 font, double spaced

Review: All submissions have a double-blind process with two reviewers. Submitting authors are asked to participate in the refereeing process.

Submission Template (use this template when submitting)



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