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Global Knowledge Management: A case study in the application of knowledge management to
anti-money laundering

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Anti-Money Laundering is a global and pressing issue as money laundering techniques become increasingly sophisticated year by year. Money laundering is an international problem which needs to be addressed by international co-operation as no single country or agency can succeed alone. This co-operation is necessary at a number of levels and agencies. In the context of fighting money laundering from a global perspective, real-time exchanges of information and effective international cooperation throughout the world have become a prerequisite to success.

The purpose of this thesis is to construct a theoretical model which aims to contribute to practical problem solving in knowledge process (knowledge creating, sharing and utilizing process).

The Major Research Question (MRQ) is as follows: How was “Knowledge” of Anti-Money Laundering managed in international cooperation?

In order to solve this MRQ, I explored the international anti-money laundering regime (Financial Action Forces on Money laundering and stakeholders), a governmental approach to the money laundering phenomena (JAPAN case) and knowledge experts’ behaviors (net-working activities through the Association of Certified Anti-Money Specialist: ACAMS).

From these explorations, I found the following:

- i) International cooperation of anti-money laundering is a hybrid of various processes (creation stage of knowledge, sharing stage of knowledge and utilization stage of knowledge)
- ii) In international cooperation of global anti-money laundering, organizational, collective, personal and social knowledges are inherent and knowledge creation, sharing and utilization are carried out at all stages of interaction.

I would like to refer to this knowledge process as global knowledge management.

Further to enhance this knowledge process as global knowledge management, I propose the “ROLE” model which is an acronym for “Recognizing” “Organizing” “Localizing” and “Executing”.

Knowledge created by organizations and individuals in specific communities can create, share and utilize hybrid knowledge of the public sector and the private sector, and as a result, knowledge-based knowledge management system can be promoted. This theoretical model could contribute to understand efforts within various phases in the complex public, private, international and national cooperation systems from the viewpoint of Global knowledge management.

Keywords: Anti-money laundering, FATF, Global knowledge management, ROLE model