### General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal’s peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of *lack of Novelty*, provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sciencedomainorg#Peer-Review-Guideline)
### PART 1: Review Comments

**Reviewer’s comment**

This is a good study as it deals with an important issue related to SMEs in developing countries. There are only some minor revisions but very important:

1) The author needs to make the reader really understand what the author means with ‘internal’ barriers versus ‘external’ barriers. Are internal barriers mean barriers occurred inside a company or inside the country of exporter. If internal barriers are barriers inside the company, the author also needs to elaborate further whether the ‘internal’ barriers are fully independent of the ‘external’ barriers. For instance, financial barrier is mentioned among internal barriers, but this barrier can be a result of lack of access to bank or government regulations that make SMEs difficult to get credit from bank, which is an external barrier. This has also a consequence for the quantitative analysis.

2) The author should keep in mind two things when he/she is talking about SMEs as exporters. First, whether they are ‘direct’ or ‘independent’ exporter; directly sell their product abroad without via domestic ‘middle-agents’ e.g. trading or big exporting companies, or ‘indirectly’: via big exporting companies, traders, or subcontracting with multinational companies located in the country. Second, whether they export to ‘free market’ abroad or engaged in regional supply chains. These differences have a consequence on the type of constraints faced by individual SMEs.

3) Table 1 is rather confusing. The objective and the process of the test is well understood. But, the relationships between the sub-sets in the second column and each of the major barriers in the first column is difficult to understand. For instance, what are the ‘government’ barriers? Are these barriers because of inconsistent or inappropriate government policies/actions? If so, what does the author mean with ‘economic barriers’ as among sub-sets of government barriers?

4) Table 3 is the finding. I understand that the respondents were given the list in Table 3, and they were asked to say agree or not. Am I right? To give the readers a better clue about the relevance of the classification of barriers in Table 1 for the findings in Table 3 (major export barriers faced by respondents), maybe it is much better if the barriers in Table 3 are reorganized by major barriers in Table 1 . For instance, ‘high cost of capital to finance exports (mean: 4.473) is included in Financial barriers, and so on.

**Author’s comment**

*If agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here.*

### Reviewer Details:

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<td>Department, University &amp; Country</td>
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