

Statement of the Editor (Shipping)

Y.H. Venus Lun

Department of Logistics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

In a global business environment, with dwindling transport costs and rising global sourcing, the volume of international trade has grown dramatically. As a result of the need to sustain extensive market coverage to fill the ever-growing carrying capacity, it is essential for shipping service providers to respond to evolving market changes in a timely manner. There has been growing interest over the past decades in exploring ways to improve the practice and management of shipping business and operations. For example, the use of technology to enhance shipping security has received enormous attention from shipping researchers and practitioners.

Since the introduction of container ships, liner shipping has gone through a high growth phase, almost independent of the development of the world economy. Due to globalization, all countries are competing in the global market. To meet market needs, there has been rationalization among shipping firms in the form of alliance with the aim of consolidating their strengths in the market in hopes of maximizing market share and minimizing running costs. On the other hand, globalization has resulted in greater market power and larger ships needing more cargo to fill. Collaboration and competition exist simultaneously. In addition, containerization contributes to the development of intermodalism, and the emergence of intermodal transport, which combines the accessibility of inland transport modes with the economic line-haul capability of ocean shipping, leading to immense changes in operation in the global shipping industry. In today's highly competitive environment, organizations in the shipping industry increasingly seek to gain competitive advantage by making innovative use of their operations to deliver value to customers.

The Shipping area of *ITSTL* is devoted to promoting original research and publishing the latest and significant research findings aimed at improving the practice and management of shipping business and operations. It combines the high standards of an academic approach with the practical value of industrial applications. We invite high-quality and methodologically rigorous research papers that address significant management issues pertinent to the shipping industry. We are particularly interested in contributions that present new models of shipping management and practice that are grounded in sound academic theories or apply known and existing techniques in an innovative manner. Originality, significance and clarity of exposition for a broad audience are the main criteria for selecting papers for publication.