
Editorial

Petri Helo*

Logistics Systems Research Group
University of Vaasa
P.O. Box 700
FIN-65101 Vaasa, Finland
Fax: +358-6-3248467
E-mail: phelo@uwasa.fi
*Corresponding author

Héctor Cancela

Instituto de Computación, Facultad de Ingeniería
Universidad de la República
J. Herrera y Reissig 565, 11300 Montevideo, Uruguay
Fax: +598-2-7110469
E-mail: cancela@fing.edu.uy

Tauno Kekäle

Industrial Management
University of Vaasa
P.O. Box 700
FIN-65101 Vaasa, Finland
Fax: +358-6-3248467
E-mail: tke@uwasa.fi

Biographical notes: Petri Helo is Research Professor of Logistics Systems at University of Vaasa, Finland. He received a PhD in Production Economics from the University of Vaasa, Finland in 2001. He is also involved in developing logistics information systems at Wapice Ltd. as a partner. His areas of expertise include agile manufacturing, technology management and system dynamics.

Héctor Cancela is a Full Professor and Head of the Computer Science Institute at the Engineering School of the Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay. Dr. Cancela holds a PhD degree in Computer Science from the University of Rennes 1, INRIA Rennes, France (1996), and a Computer Systems Engineer degree from the Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay (1990). His research interests are in operations research techniques (especially simulation and optimisation) applied to communications and logistics. He has published more than 40 papers in international journals and proceedings of refereed conferences, and has acted as thesis advisor of MSc and PhD students.

Tauno Kekäle is Professor and Head of the Department of Production at the University of Vaasa, Finland. Kekäle holds a PhD degree in Industrial Management (Quality Management, 1998), and a Master of Science degree in

Business (1989) from the University of Vaasa. His current research interests are in complex networks and their implications to management as well as management of innovation and technologies. He has published more than 70 papers in international journals and proceedings of refereed conferences, and has acted as thesis advisor and examiner of MSc and PhD students.

The *7th International Conference on Industrial Logistics 2005 (ICIL)* was organised by the Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay, University of Vaasa, Finland, University of Rennes 1, and *International Centre for Innovation and Industrial Logistics (ICIIL)*. ICIL 2005 took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, from the 14th to the 18th of February 2005.

This edition of the conference was dedicated to the memory of Professor Lilian Barros, deceased January 2004. Late Professor Barros was a well-known researcher in the area and one of the founders of the network ICIIL. She was also deeply involved in the launching of the ICIL conference series. ICIL conference has been like a big family – people using quantitative modelling in industrial logistics who gathered in places around the world every two years to conceive new ideas and to keep track of each other's research.

The key idea has been always the same. ICIIL is a non-profit professional association which has been developing an integrated view of industrial logistics and international exchanges among students, researchers, academics and industrialists, as well as promoting the field of Industrial Logistics Modelling in general. The bi-annual conferences are the main means to attain these objectives worldwide. This is exactly what the conference has done, moving from France (ICIL'93), to Brazil (ICIL'95), Russia (ICIL'99), Japan (ICIL'01), Finland (ICIL'03) and Uruguay (ICIL'05) since 1993.

The conference in Vaasa 2003 gathered about 70 people, and the atmosphere was again very friendly and heart-warming – even if Barros herself only appeared on a videotape that we received some weeks earlier. Barros was brave, she was her own funny and joyful self despite having difficulties with speaking, and gave the impression that she would return for the next conference – which we believed, we wanted to. During the showing of the video in Vaasa, we all still felt that these health problems were temporary, that we would meet her in Montevideo and she would again take her place as the chairperson of the conference. This was not to be. In the early Spring of 2004, a message reached us – Lilian Barros had passed away.

The 8th ICIL, being a memorial conference, again gathered the same family together. Even without Barros, even if the fun was tuned down, this was the same group – the same family – and the same research interest as before. All through the years, all these people have a very special orientation to logistics – they approach it with help of mathematical modelling, whatever those words would imply. Thus, the papers of this conference are to their orientation applied, but the applications utilised in them are state-of-the-art and the same approaches may be used by others to solve similar practical problems.

The reader will notice that the selected papers from ICIL 2005 conference present a wide range of logistics modelling-related issues, kept that way on purpose to accept a broader definition of industrial logistics. The originality of the theme consists of providing a coherent international framework as well as an integrated view of logistics.

The very first paper in this special issue is Professor Barros's last publication presented in the ICIL conference. This paper written jointly with Professor Olli-Pekka Hilmola analyses the logistics in a wider perspective and suggests some paths for further research in quantifying and modelling industrial logistics.

The second paper authored by Mittal and Mirdha presents a patent analysis on the field of logistics. This paper outlines the current application trends in Supply Chain Management by using quantitative analysis.

In the third paper, Traver and Fae introduce a novel approach in quantitative analysis by applying multi-agents in transport and logistics.

Then, in the fourth paper, Nind *et al.* analyse the industrial service design in the Asia – Pacific Shipping. This paper analyses the structure of the business from strategic point of view.

Creighton presents a flow control methodology for the rapid generation of vehicle traffic models by summarising the developments in this important logistics area in the fifth paper.

In the sixth paper, Olivera and Viera introduce an adaptive memory programming type of approach for solving the vehicle routing problem with multiple trips.

The seventh paper deals with internal logistics operations. Dukic and Oluic present some methods order-picking for improved response.

Finally, Okhrin and Richter analyse inventory models in the mobile business environment.

The Guest Editors would like to thank the authors and the reviewers for their contribution of this special issue. Also the publisher and the Editor-in-Chief, Professor Gunasekaran, must be acknowledged for organising the possibility to publish these papers in the IJLSM, which was Barros's wish. Hopefully these contributions can provide useful inputs to improved productivity and quality in logistics.

So, read, study and be inspired – the modelling in industrial logistics is living well, as in every ICIL conference we get more assured that there still are a huge amount of problems where quantitative methods can save the day.