Editorial

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Biographical Notes: Dong Li is an Assistant Professor at the Management School of The University of Liverpool. He received a PhD in 1999 from the University of Nottingham. His research includes supply chain optimisation, RFID enabled business modelling, intelligent supply chain systems and e-Business modelling. His recent research has been focused on the food supply chain innovation. Most of his research publications appeared in international journals of *Production Economics, Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Intelligent Manufacturing, Services Operations* and *Informatics* among others, including book contributions on e-Supply chain management and Intelligent supply chain management. He is a Member of Production and Operations Management Society and UK Association of Information Systems.

1 Introduction

Supply chains have experienced significant changes in enabling technologies, organisations and management approaches. With increasingly diversified customer demands, supply chain operations have to be more agile and flexible to maintain competitiveness. Facing such challenges, approaches and technologies to capture, store, analyse, share and outsource the strategically important information play increasingly important roles in improving the flexibility, agility and efficiency of supply chain operations.

The important information sources and the capability to process the information as intelligence of the business enhance the visibility of supply chain wide operations and the responsiveness of decision making. As an extension of the business intelligence concept to the supply chain paradigm, supply chain intelligence, driven by emerging information and communication technologies, leads to innovation of the supply chain infrastructure.

The research and practical cases of achieving the supply chain intelligence through the advancement of information technologies have been extensively reported in the literature. For instance, numerous articles on the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology have been published reporting benefits from replacing barcode systems in the supply chain management. However, turning the supply chain intelligence which the technologies produce into novel business models with competitive advantages is a broadly recognised challenge.[1]

Research in this Special Issue provides systematic thinking on exploiting values of the supply chain intelligence and transforming supply chain infrastructure. Investigations in the reported research have been given to what-if scenarios of reconfiguring key

functions in the supply chain operations by emerging technological opportunities. We are expecting that more research will be reported for business innovation through intelligent supply chain management approaches and technologies in the near future.

Note

[1]The Walton School, Supply Chain Enterprise Systems: The Silver Bullet? Knowledge@Wharton, The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, 6 September 2006.