
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Yen-Chun Jim Wu is an Associate Professor at National Kaohsiung First University of Science and Technology, Taiwan. His papers have appeared in *Sloan Management Review*, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *International Journal of Operations and Production Management*, *International Journal of Supply Chain Management*, *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, *International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management*, *International Journal of Logistics Management*, etc. His research interests include supply chain management, technology management, and lean manufacturing. He holds a PhD in Industrial and Operations Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.

The International Congress on Logistics and SCM Systems (ICLS) was held at National Kaohsiung First University of Science and Technology (NKFUST) in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, from 1–3rd May, 2006. ICLS was initiated by The Asia Federation of Logistics and SCM Systems and jointly hosted, in turn, by The University of Tokyo and Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan, in November 2004. Over 150 people attended this logistics research conference. More than 100 papers from 15 countries were submitted and 74 papers were presented at the conference. Each paper was first screened by the submission review committee and evaluated independently by the session chairs for the special issue. Around 30 papers were recommended to enter into the second review process for publication consideration. Thirteen papers were selected by the guest editor, primarily based on two main criteria: suitability and geographical balance. First, the main theme of this special issue is investigating the current logistics opportunities and challenges in the Asia Pacific region. The issues that these papers address must deal with the dynamic nature of logistics activities from a more macro, instead of micro, perspective. In other words, while many excellent papers were highly appraised, papers addressing logistics issues in the Asia Pacific region at an industry or country level, as a whole, received priority over papers with a micro logistics approach. Second, to present readers with a richer Asian-Pacific context, geographical balance was intentionally taken into account in paper selection.

I would like to thank Professor Joel Winser, the former editor of *IJISM*, for his support, and the *IJISM* for publishing this special issue featuring some of the interesting papers presented at the conference. Finally, my sincere gratitude goes out to the following referees who have done a good job in helping to create this special issue; Professor Chen-Min Feng, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan, Professor

Chiun-Ming Liu, Feng Chia University, Taiwan, Professor Ying-Fang Huang, National Kaohsiung University of Applied Sciences, Taiwan, Professor Shams Rahman, RMIT University, Australia, Professor Wen-Yen Wu, I Shou University, Taiwan, Professor Shusaku Hiraki, Hiroshima Shudo University, Japan, Professor Heung Suk Hwang, TongMyong University, Korea, Professor Tsuen-Ho Hsu, National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan, and Professor Suk Chul Rim, Ajou University, Korea.

The theme of the 2006 conference was 'Globalisation and Localisation on the Supply Chain Management'. This special issue features papers on a range of logistics issues in the Asia Pacific region, and includes authors from countries as diverse as the USA, Taiwan, France, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, and Australia.

This special issue is composed of nine papers, each of which deals with a variety of logistics topics. The first introductory paper by Wu and Cheng, National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan, presents a logistics overview from an economic perspective so the readers have a general background on the logistics opportunities and challenges in the Asia Pacific region.

Okungwu and Santosa from Toulouse Business School, France, and PQM Consultants, Indonesia, use multiple cases to illustrate best practices that drive efficient supply chains in Indonesia and France. The third paper by Horjaturapitporn, Janu, Chaiprapat, Limsakul, and Sirivongpaisal, all from Prince of Songkla University, Thailand, presents a feasibility study on establishing a distribution centre in Thailand and aims to apply supply chain management concepts to the OTOP project in Songkhla province.

In their paper, 'Quality management practices in logistics services in Thailand', Rahman and Laosirihongthrong from RMIT University, Australia and Thammasat University, Thailand, investigate the use of quality management practices and tools and obstacles to quality management in logistics services in Thailand. The next paper by Tang and Lee from Yuan-Ze University, Taiwan, shifts the research setting to Taiwan. Using the popular Balanced Scorecard (BSC) method, they apply AHP analysis to evaluate the impact of POS systems on business performance based on a sample of 235 7-Seven convenience stores in Taiwan.

Karasawa and Kumakiri from Seijoh University and PriQia, Japan, provide a discussion of historical trends of logistics rationalisation in Japan and delineate the key strategy of warehouse location. Wang from National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan, proposes simplified mathematical models suitable for small package distribution in the Taipei area, Taiwan, for a point-to-point courier network and a hub-and-spoke courier network.

The next paper by Liu, Liu, and Brown from West Virginia University, USA, and Feng Chia University, Taiwan, uses data envelopment analysis, industry code analysis, Dun and Bradstreet business ration analysis, and market entry analysis to evaluate different global logistics strategies among 25 leading logistics firms. They claim that DHL, FedEx, and TNT all have different global strategies to fit in their own corporate cultures and business environments.

Finally, in their paper, 'The IBM advanced planning system for managing next generation demand-supply networks', Wang and his colleagues from IBM reveal IBM's supply chain management solution and provide a detailed overview of the IBM's Supply Chain Planning (SCP) systems.

I hope that you will enjoy these insights into local practices in logistics research, with their wide range of geographic settings and research topics. It is certainly anticipated that more and more logistics research will be carried out that focuses on the dynamic Asia Pacific region.