
Editorial: A sustainable new world

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Throughout human history, transportation and communication have always been basic requirements to allow human kind to trade, preach and publicise. The establishment of the postal system and the invention and production of the airplane brought us into a new era. Advances in technology, air transportation and automated processing made possible expedited courier service and the globalisation and supply-chaining of resources to and from different parts of world. How best to manage the air cargo, logistics and supply chain business in this interconnected and rapidly changing world has become an important subject.

In addition, the enhanced security requirements resulting from the September 11 terrorist attack, climate change warnings and the recent rise in fuel prices bring in different factors for us to consider. Instead of continuing the trend of rapid expansion, globalisation and outsourcing, we also need to focus on the sustainability of the business and reducing carbon dioxide levels. Optimisation of the transportation network, increase of efficiency and transportation visibility, increase of information sharing between suppliers and customers and between manufacturers and retailers, management of demand and revenue, market forecasting and related data analysis, environmental friendliness and harmonising rules and policy for global trading have become pressing issues.

This special issue presents academic papers and industry case studies that reflect the above core issues in the hope that more studies will follow. This special issue includes papers on: transportation network optimisation, reduction of tariff barriers, the relationship between privatisation and efficiency. Additional papers from Professor Dawna Rhoades' collection are: transportation visibility and information sharing and efficient management of public transportation in the City of Nairobi and limitation on the success of low-cost carriers. A review of the book *Untold Story of the UPS* outlining the global carrier service giant's past, present and future is also included.

Soon after this issue is published, the World Association of Sustainable Development will hold its seventh world conference together with the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University College of Business in the USA, so we aim to attract more attention to the above-mentioned issues and expect papers resulting from the conference to be published in future issues of *World Review of Intermodal Transportation Research*.

We all live in a world that changes every minute and every day. No matter what shape the world is in and no matter whether it will ever be the same again, what never changes is that this is our time and we believe we can make the world different and make the necessary changes happen.