Editorial

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Dr. Felix T.S. Chan received a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from Brighton Polytechnic (now University), UK and received a PhD in Manufacturing Engineering from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, UK. Currently, he is an Associate Professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, The University of Hong Kong. His current research interests are logistics and supply chain management, distribution coordination, systems modelling and simulation and supplier selection. He is a Senior Member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong.

Due to the effects of globalisation, current supply chain networks are increasingly complex. Enterprises have to deal with numerous channel partners who may be located a great distance apart, request a greater-than-ever diversity of products and need to deal with more statutory requirements and documentation than ever before. As a result, the fulfilment of customers' demands with good quality products, on-time product delivery and superior logistics services become difficult to achieve. It is essential to adopt new theories, emerging technologies, effective strategies and innovative systems for enterprises to respond to the demands in supply chain networks.

The purpose of this special issue is to evaluate the advantages of implementing the latest innovative theories and technologies in different domains in current supply chain networks. This special issue contains 12 papers that discuss advanced enterprise and information systems that enable supply chain operations in the innovative age. A brief overview of the papers that are provided in this issue is provided as follows.

'A conceptual framework for designing and building Web-based Revenue-sharing Collaboration Systems (WRCS) in supply chain management', by Tu and Lu highlights that good collaboration is the essential element in effective supply chain management. However, due to the conflicts between each enterprise's local optimisation and the chain's global optimisation, it is difficult to establish collaboration among different business entities. Thus, a Web-based Revenue-sharing Collaboration System (WRCS) is proposed to foster solid, long-term collaborative relationships within a supply chain. With the help of Information Technology (IT)-enhanced WRCS, the objective of offering insight into the building of an effective collaboration in supply chain management is achieved.

Ling *et al.*, in their paper, 'The analysis and case studies of successful express logistics companies', note that the border-crossing activities between organisations have substantially increased in today's globalised market. In order to minimise the costs in the supply chain, it is essential to handle various logistics activities to provide good customer services. The aim of this paper is to study the impact of corporate strategy, technology and customer satisfaction on the firm's performance, filling up the gap of good customer service effects on long-term profits.

'An object-oriented framework for modelling control policies in a supply chain' by Wadhwa *et al.* studies different entity flows in generic supply chain systems and evaluates the common control policies for major supply chain decisions. Thus, a generic object-oriented framework is proposed for the improvement of the performance of the supply chain by suggesting optimal control policies. Through pilot testing in a simulation environment, supply chain performance is improved by the provision of the optimal control strategies that are best suited for the environment in which the supply chain is working.

Ning *et al.*, in their paper, 'A fuzzy rule-based system for the evaluation of logistics partners in the supply chain network', highlights that careful partner evaluation and selection are critical for enterprises to maintain their competitive edge in this globalised and customer-oriented business environment. Thus, a fuzzy rule-based system is proposed to help manufacturers evaluate their logistics partners in the supply chain network. With the support of the proposed system, Ning *et al.* claim that the company is able to find a suitable partner easily and increase the likelihood of achieving the most successful synergy to improve business operations.

'A real-time business process decisions support planning system for the mould industry: a case study', by Leung *et al.* mentions that mould manufacturing is an important part of the product development process. However, due to the shorter lead times that are being demanded by customers, it is essential to improve the production planning process of mould manufacturing. A Real-time Business Process Decisions Support System (RBPDS) is proposed to achieve this goal. With the help of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology and the Case-based Reasoning (CBR) technique, the objectives of tracking shop floor production information in real time and providing decision support for planning are achieved. Through the application of the RBPDS in a mould manufacturer which specialises in the electroplating of plastic-resin products, the reaction time to changes is reduced significantly and the faults and unexpected waste that are due to poor planning are eliminated. As a result, an overall high mould quality is achieved.

Cheung *et al.*, in their paper, 'The design of an RFID-enhanced autonomous storage planning system for 3PL warehouses', present a RFID-enhanced Autonomous Storage Planning System (RFID-ASPS) for 3PL warehouses to cope with the changing patterns of customer demand and with product variety. With the integration of RFID technology with a rule-based decision support system, the advantages of providing reliable suggestions for storage planning problems in a shorter time and making better use of limited space are achieved.

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