
Foreword

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Biographical notes: Xiaobo Wu is a Professor in the School of Management, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, PR China. His main research interest is technological innovation management and business strategy, global manufacturing and strategy, information technology and management change, and sustainable development. He has acquired a significant reputation as the author of over 200 academic articles. As a main member, he has participated in over 20 research projects with grants from NSF China and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and four international cooperative research projects with grants from the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and CIDA of Canada, mainly concerning the management of technology. Besides these, as a principle investigator, he has undertaken more than 20 grant researches, including those granted by NSF China, the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, NSF Zhejiang and local administrative bureaus.

Dr. Xuefeng Liu is an Assistant Professor of the School of Management of Xiamen University, PR China. He is a member of the Academy of Management and the anonymous reviewer of the proceeding of the 2008 annual meeting of the academy. Dr. Liu received his PhD degree in Management from Zhejiang University, PR China. His current research interests focus on global manufacturing, strategic management and innovation management. He has published several research papers about innovation in emerging economies in international journals in English and has participated in several research programmes about innovation in China funded by the Chinese government.

This special issue contains a collection of selected best papers presented at the *Third International Symposium on Global Manufacturing and China* (GMC'07). The symposium was coorganised by the Institute for Manufacturing of the University of Cambridge, the National Innovative Research Base of Philosophy and Social Sciences on Innovation Management and Sustainable Competitiveness of Zhejiang University, and the Zhejiang University–University of Cambridge Joint-Research Center for Global Manufacturing and Innovation Management. It was also supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

Globalisation has changed the world dramatically. One of the most identifiable trends is that global manufacturing networks have proliferated as a major organisational innovation in global operations. The industrial chains that design, make and serve are fragmenting and the ownership and commercial structure of companies along the chain are being transformed. Both developed and developing countries can gain access to value by re-integration of the value chain and collaboration. As one of the quickly rising manufacturing centres in global manufacturing networks, China has realised that the strategic win-win manufacturing cooperation can provide a unique international combination of specialised and sophisticated high-value manufacturing expertise and low-cost, high-quality production capacity.

Besides China, there are also many developing countries and even newly industrialised countries that have experiences and lessons in their joining the global manufacturing net. They were benefited from people from academia and industries, from developing countries and developed countries, who shared and discussed directly in the forum of GMC'07).

We do expect that the special issue will contribute to the development of research on the global manufacturing network, promoting and benefiting the communication and understanding across multiple disciplines among researchers and practitioners all over the world. In particular, we hope that this special issue can provide beneficial readings for both researchers and practitioners in the field of global manufacturing and beyond.

Special thanks are due to the reviewers, who supported the editors by reviewing all the papers submitted and selecting adequate papers. We are also very grateful to those who gave a hand in the organisation of the symposium.