
Editorial

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This special issue publishes the full papers of selected research works presented in the International Conference on Operations Research Applications in Engineering Management (ICOREM), which took place at the premises of the Anna University of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, India during 27th–29th May 2009. The theme of the conference is to disseminate and share the potential applications of operations research in all engineering disciplines and functional areas of management. True representations were there from practitioners, engineers, scientists, academicians and policy makers.

The ICOREM International and National Advisory Committee made an enormous effort to attract good amount of research papers and adhered strict norms to raise the standards of this international conference. It also made an attempt to publish the extended version of the best work presented in the conference in an internationally refereed journal. The *International Journal of Business Performance and Supply Chain Modelling*

perfectly fulfils the requirements of the conference advisory committee. Authors of 16 papers were keen to publish and submitted their extended version for possible consideration in the special issue of *International Journal of Business Performance and Supply Chain Modelling*. After rigorous double blind review process the review committee accepted four papers. It's our pleasure to write an editorial for the accepted papers. The four papers attempts to bring out the potential application of operations research in investigation, transportation, manufacturing, project implementation, Insurance and retail sectors.

The first paper by Jawahar and Balaji proposes two approximate heuristics to determine size of shipments, inventory and backlog for a multi-period fixed charge transportation problem. The second paper by Shankhar and Prasad proposes a 'Cost optimisation model of supply chain networks using particle swarm optimisation'. The third paper by Krisnamoorthi and Suneetha proposes an idea to find frequent patterns in two phases using decision tree and association rule. The fourth paper by Srinivasan suggests that the introduction of futures and options trading have improved the speed and quality of information flowing in the spot market which enhances the overall market depth, increases market liquidity and ultimately reduces informational asymmetries and therefore, compresses spot market volatility in India.