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## Editorial

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### Ajay Das

O.M. Group,  
Zicklin School of Business,  
Department of Management, Baruch College,  
Box B9-240, 55 Lexington Avenue,  
New York, NY 10010, USA  
Email: [IJISM@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:IJISM@baruch.cuny.edu)

**Biographical notes:** Ajay Das, current Editor-in-Chief of *IJISM*, is a Professor in the Operations Management Group, at the Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College, New York, NY. He joined academia after several years of industry experience in supply chain management, obtaining a PhD in Operations Management from Michigan State University in 1998. His current research interests are in examining innovation in the supply chain, and in investigating the interface between supply chain management and technology, quality, and related operational aspects of a business. He has an extensive publication record, and welcomes collaborators with similar research interests.

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Volume 5, Number 3 of *IJISM* brings an interesting mix of modelling and empirical studies on different aspects of integration in supply chains.

Udo Buscher and Andreas Wels from the Dresden University of Technology conceptualise and model supply chain risk as a function of lead time deviation, contributing to the quantification of risk in supply chain integration programmes.

Mouthatipkul, Das and Yenradee develop and test a heuristic to address the issue of supply chain replenishment to multiple stores, positioning regional inventory to minimise lost sales. The model is compatible with ERP systems.

The issue of early supplier involvement and new product development has received much attention in the supply chain integration literature. Sarah Wu (Fordham University) and Gary Ragatz (Michigan State University) examine this issue through the lens of resource-based view and agency theory, identifying information sharing and task programmability as two key governance mechanisms in early supplier involvement initiatives. Interestingly, their survey data also suggest that the duration of past supplier relationships may not affect new product development, as companies continue to seek resources of value from new sources in supply markets.

The research on supply chain integration has been traditionally centred in the western business world. However, with most supply chains now beginning, or largely resident, in other parts of the world, it is imperative to examine extant theories and frameworks in the context of other business cultures. Lockström, Schadel, Harrison and Moser of the China Europe International Business School and SMI, China, develop and apply a supplier integration framework in a case study of 30 companies in the Chinese automobile industry. The effects of the penchant for stability, a Confucian tenet, are found in all the four dimensions of their framework, operational integration, strategic integration, financial integration and flexible integration.

Finally, Breite and Koskinen introduce and case-test a taxonomic knowledge transfer model for improving the outcomes of relationships in the pursuit of supply chain integration. Their taxonomic model contributes to a more nuanced and richer understanding of the complexities of relationships in the supply chain, product or service complexity and the complexity of knowledge sought to be communicated or exchanged.

*IJISM* thanks the contributors to this issue, and also thanks the many authors who have submitted their research work for consideration for publication over time. I thank our editorial review board for their valuable service to the journal, and the ad-hoc reviewers who have stepped in with their time and expertise to review for *IJISM*. Your service to *IJISM* has helped maintain and enhance the reputation and quality of our journal. Your insightful reviews and comments have assisted our colleagues with good judgement, timely responses, constructive suggestions, and new directions in their research studies. You have accepted our many (urgent) requests and various *IJISM* demands on your time with good humour and cheer. We recognise the demands on your time, and value your cooperation and consideration.

I would also welcome your suggestions regarding journal expansion and enrichment, as well as guest editing special *IJISM* issues on supply chain matters of current interest.

On a final note, sincere thanks are due to Mrs Barbara Curran, Journal Manager, Inderscience Publishers, for her valuable and unwavering support and guidance in all *IJISM* publication matters.