
Editorial

Lawrence C. Leung*

Department of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics,
Chinese University of Hong Kong,
Room 312, Leung Kau Kui Building, Shatin, Hong Kong
Fax: (852) 2603-6840 E-mail: lawrence@baf.msmail.cuhk.edu.hk

*Corresponding author

Yer Van Hui

Department of Management Sciences,
City University of Hong Kong,
P7523, Academic Building, 83 Tat Chee Avenue,
Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong
Fax: (852) 2788-7097 E-mail: msyervan@cityu.edu.hk

Michael Ka Yiu Fung

Policy and Research Centre,
Faculty of Business Administration,
City University of Hong Kong,
Room 321A, Leung Kau Kui Building, Shatin, Hong Kong
Fax: (852) 2603-6840 E-mail: michael@baf.msmail.cuhk.edu.hk

This special issue presents a selection of papers received by the guest-editors for the special issue of *IJSTL – International Journal of Shipping and Transport Logistics* on air-cargo logistics and airport economics. Five papers are selected based on their quality and fit to the theme of the special issue. All five papers went through a rigorous reviewing process.

The first paper by Wan et al. addresses job selection, route selection and agent selection in the design of an airfreight forwarder's shipment plan. The authors provide a mixed 0-1 LP that determines the optimal assignments of routes and agents for a set of shipments. Effects of job and route selection on the design of shipment plans are discussed via a numerical example.

The second paper by Chu et al. provides a technical design for a platform website, a fourth party community infrastructure where air cargo logistics services can be designed, traded and managed. The papers shows the technical issues involved in designing a platform of this genre, and also examines the difference of designing such a platform with more traditional website.

The third paper by Chow et al. examines technical efficiencies of Chinese airports by using multi-output stochastic output distance function analysis. The estimated technical efficiencies computed based on the stochastic output distance function method are

compared and contrasted with those computed based on DEA method. It is concluded that both methods are consistent with each other in terms of ranking of efficiency scores.

The fourth paper by Kutvonen et al. discusses a stakeholder-oriented performance measurement system framework for groundhandling companies. The framework is based on both a literature review on performance measurement systems and empirical evidence gathered from a series of interviews and workshops with European ramp handling companies and stakeholders. An implementation of the model in a case is described.

The fifth paper by Yeung et al. explores the economic contribution and competitiveness of Hong Kong's air freight and express industry. Their findings show that the industry makes a significant contribution to Hong Kong's economic development and employment, but the competitive position of Hong Kong's air freight and express industry is declining. Holdups at China Customs constitute one of the main reasons for cross-border shipment delays and cause great monetary loss among shippers. Recommendations for government policy makers and service providers are suggested.