
Editorial

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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.

Volume 6, No. 1 of *International Journal of Integrated Supply Management* brings an eclectic array of studies that look at different aspects of integration in supply chains.

Contracts in supply chain management have been studied as a mechanism for alignment of multiple party interests. Frascatore and Mahmoodi of Clarkson University, USA, extend the literature by developing an efficiency-enhancing contract mechanism. The contractual model integrates OEM and supplier in a transaction that creates optimal capacity for the supplier at an optimal price for the buyer. The decision variables include a rebate to the OEM, output price, and the portion of supplier capacity cost borne by the OEM. The model's utility increases with an increase in demand uncertainty.

The next study examines integration of firm service goals with logistics capabilities. Kontio and Hallikas of Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland, describe a logistics supplier selection framework that seeks to evaluate and integrate supplier capabilities with firm performance priorities, using a novel combination of AHP and SERVQUAL. Their approach introduces service elements into the supplier selection process, and is tested on three companies.

The food supply chain has attracted much interest in recent years, with cost, availability and quality issues dominating. Rajurkar and Jain of the Malaviya National Institute of Technology, India, undertake a comprehensive review of the food supply chain literature. Their review includes 134 papers published in different journals between 1994 and 2009 and concludes with a classification and codification framework. The study finds scarce use of experimental results and newer single-stage and multi-stage solving techniques. Lean and agile supply chain strategies also emerge as under-researched areas. Based on the findings of the literature review, the authors suggest a number of areas of potential research interest in food supply chains.

In an interesting contribution to the buyer-supplier relationship literature, Khoja, Adams and Kauffman of the University of Houston-Downtown examine the relational effects of power asymmetry. The authors use transaction cost economics, relational, and

behavioural theories to develop a model that specifies buyer and supplier power as a determinant of commitment. Commitment affects the level of power imbalance, and is a mediated influence on the nature of the buyer-supplier relationship. Khoja et al.'s model posits commitment as a direct influence on power imbalance, and not on buyer-supplier relationships as found in other treatments. The study suggests that managers can use commitment to engage in and manage asymmetric power positions in buyer-seller relationships.

The final paper examines an issue of emerging importance in business integration in virtual supply chains. Ling, Liang, Gou and Du of the University of Science and Technology in China apply Analytical Target Cascading (ATC) to optimally coordinate and integrate production task allocation among the entities of a virtual enterprise. The study shows that ATC is an effective method for coordinating tasks with cost and performance outcomes.

IJISM thanks the contributors to this issue. I thank our editorial review board for their valuable service to the journal, and the ad-hoc reviewers who have contributed with their time and expertise to review for *IJISM*. We recognise the demands on your time, and value your contribution to our discipline. Constructive and timely reviews are a valued and appreciated service to our academic community.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mrs Barbara Curran, Journal Manager, Inderscience Publishers, for her continued support and guidance in organising the publication of the papers in *IJISM*.