
Editorial

Hirofumi Matsuo

Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University,
2-1 Rokkodai, Nada, Kobe, Hyogo 657-8501, Japan
E-mail: matsuh@kobe-u.ac.jp

Linguo Gong

College of Business Administration, Rider University,
2083 Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3099, USA
E-mail: lgong@rider.edu

Biographical notes: Hirofumi Matsuo is a Professor of Operations Management at the Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University. He was a Faculty Member of the Management Department at the University of Texas at Austin from 1984 to 1999, and held the Fred H. Moore Professorship. He obtained his PhD from MIT. He also served as an Associate Editor of *Management Science Operations Research*. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Japanese Operations Management and Strategy* and a Department Editor of *International Commerce Review*. His research interests include supply chain/demand management and production planning/scheduling/control in the high-tech industry and grocery industries.

Linguo Gong is an Associate Professor of the Management Sciences Department at the College of Business Administration, Rider University, New Jersey. He was a Faculty Member of ISMS Department at the Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana from 1991 to 1998 and a Visiting Professor to Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey from 1998 to 1999. His research interests include production planning and control, quality management and supply chain management.

This special issue is based on the selected papers presented at the Third World Conference on Production and Operations Management, held in Tokyo in 2008. The conference theme was 'Manufacturing fundamentals: necessity and sufficiency'. This international conference was hosted by Japanese Operations Management and Strategy Association and co-organised by European Operations Management Association and Production and Operations Management Society. Of the 217 full papers accepted for the conference proceedings, this special issue has focused on the articles addressing analytical modelling on production scheduling, inventory management and forecasting. The co-editors pre-screened the qualified papers and encouraged the selected authors to revise their papers to meet the standard for publication in *IJMTM*. The submitted papers have been refereed rigorously applying the procedure of *IJMTM* and five papers have been finally accepted for publication.