Editorial

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Biographical notes: Dong-Qing Yao is a Professor at the College of Business and Economics of Towson University, USA. His research interests are in supply chain management. He has published in journals such as *IIE Transactions*, the *European Journal of Operational Research*, the *International Journal of Production Economics*, *Computers and Industrial Engineering*, the *Journal of Business Research*, the *International Journal of Intelligent Information Technology* and *OMEGA*. He serves on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Applied Management Science*.

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Cunlu Zhang is a Professor of Supply Chain Management at Xiamen University, China. His research focuses on supply chain management, management information system and knowledge management. He has conducted several research projects on the topics of supply chain risk management and logistics operation, which are supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and other government institutions. He has a number of publications including journal articles and books such as *Supply Chain Risk Management*.

Supply chain and operations management are increasingly global, and China has become the world manufacture centre. In recent years, both business practices and theoretical research on supply chain and operations management in China have been booming. For this reason, we organise this special issue to explore the latest theories and applications of supply chain management and operations management in China. The purpose of this special issue is twofold. On one hand, we attempt to introduce the theoretical work related to supply chain and operations management in China; on the other hand, we aim to investigate supply chain and operations management business practices in different Chinese industries (e.g., food, electronics, textile, etc.).

In this special issue, we included four research papers on the supply chain and operations management in China. All four papers are unique in light of research methodologies, which include literature review, empirical study, case study and conceptual model.

The first paper by Cunlu Zhang, Adrian E. Coronado Mondragon and Yongbo Feng conducted literature review on the expanding status of logistics and supply chain management research in China since 2000 in terms of methodologies utilised to compare it with the status of the international research. Generally speaking, management research in China is on the track of reaching an international advanced level. Since 2000, management research institutes in China have paid more attention to the internationalisation of research methodology. The authors investigated a sample of logistics and supply chain management research papers published in 20 Chinese representative journals. It is shown that dominant logistics and supply chain management research in China is alienated from business practices, as desk work represents the main research design applied with mathematical modelling the major study and analysis tool, and the contribution is mostly theoretical. Compared with international state of logistics and supply chain management research, there should be more empirical research based on practical data in China.

The second paper by Xingxing Zu and Yunwei Cui empirically studied quality management in China, specifically the authors intended to examine whether the QM principles, practices and techniques adopted in the western countries can also be applied in China. By identifying four main practices, namely supplier partnership, supplier involvement, supplier selection and supplier JIT delivery in quality related supplier relationship management, the paper found these practices have positive effects on the buyers' improved performance on quality-focused, and inventory management. The results would help companies understand and develop an effective supplier quality management system in China.

The third paper by Ralf Drauz, Garnet Kasperk and Julius von Mangoldt is a case study of German automotive manufacturer in China. Due to the cultural difference between western countries and China, the research adapted the analysis of value stream mapping to the manufacturing operations in China by which physical and information flows are visualised, and thus value-adding, non-value adding, and waster activities can be identified. The authors then proposed the mixing push and pull practices as the key to manufacturing success in China and recommended some key factors for the successful implementation of the proposed model. The findings are very helpful for the implementation of ERP system and lean operations in China.

The fourth paper by Huaming Zhou, Qiao Ding and James Otto proposed a conceptual model to study fresh agricultural food supply chain in China. Currently, the food safety is a big concern for Chinese consumers. In this paper, the authors first

reviewed three main patterns of the Chinese fresh agricultural products supply chains, i.e., the vegetable market model, the hypermarket chain model, and the agricultural product specialty store model. After comparing the advantages and disadvantages of each model, the authors designed a closed-loop short fresh food chain as a solution to address food safety and other carbon, efficient and environmental issues in China.