
Editorial

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Global supply chains become more and more complex and require to master a multitude of parallel information and physical flows for ensuring high customer service levels. On the other hand, enterprises today are exploring different ways to achieve competitive advantage in their industry and, within the last decade active sourcing from low-cost economies has taken place and has led to globalised and complex logistics networks. Nevertheless, transportation and logistics getting progressively more costly, inventory, handling, lot size, and mode choice decisions dramatically impact on corporate profitability. In view of these facts, the purpose of the International Conference on Advanced Logistics and Transport (ICALT) is to provide a platform for academics and engineers to meet, exchange ideas, and establish new professional networks.

The number of papers submitted to ICALT'2013 has overwhelmed those of previous editions. The reviewing process was rigorous, including peer-reviewing from at least two qualified reviewers. The papers accepted are of very high quality and cover the wide range of topics of the conference. For this special issue, we selected only eight high quality papers from the large number of papers presented at ICALT2013. These papers are representative of the main topics in logistics and transport.

We would also like to thank Prof. Angappa Gunasekaran for his editorial assistance and for accepting the selected papers to be published as a special issue of *International Journal of Services and Operations Management*. Finally, we would like to thank the authors of articles appearing in this special issue.