Editorial

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Biographical notes: Purushottam L. Meena is currently working as an Assistant Professor at the School of Management, New York Institute of Technology. His research interests are in the areas of supply chain risk management, sustainable supply chain, supply chain performance, and optimisation. His papers have been published in several journals including *Transportation Research Part E*, *Industrial Management and Data Systems*, *Business and Industrial Marketing*, *International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology*, *Benchmarking: An International Journal*, etc. His PhD dissertation won the '2012 Emerald/EFMD Outstanding Doctoral Research Award' in logistics and supply chain management category. He is currently serving as an editorial board member for more than ten international journals.

Gopal Kumar received his PhD in Supply Chain Management from the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, IIT Kharagpur and he has been working as a Postdoctoral Researcher at Dublin City University, Ireland. He is working on facilitating easy access of advanced methods for improving productivity of SMEs. His research articles have been accepted for

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publication in various refereed journals such as *Journal of Business & Industrial Marketing*, *IIMB Management Review*, *Benchmarking: An International Journal*, *International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management* and *International Journal of Services and Operations Management*. His primary research interests include supply chain collaboration, sustainable and green supply chain, operations management, game theory application in business and management, business process automation and information technology application in operations management.

S.P. Sarmah obtained his PhD degree from IIT Kharagpur, India and currently he is working as a Professor in the Department of Industrial and System Engineering at IIT Kharagpur. The present research interest of the author is in the areas of supply chain management, logistics, inventory management and optimisation. His papers have been published in *European Journal of Operational Research*, *Transportation Research Part E*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *Mathematical and Computer Modeling International Journal*, *Computers and Industrial Engineering: An International Journal*, *International Journal of Operational Research*, *Journal of Engineering Design*, etc.

Kunal Ganguly is an Associate Professor in the area of Operations and Decision Sciences at the Indian Institute of Management Kashipur. He has done his MBA and PhD from Vinod Gupta School of Management, IIT Kharagpur, India and Bachelor of Technology (BTech) from NIFFT Ranchi. He has taught various courses in operations management and quantitative techniques at the post-graduate level – such as operations management, supply chain management, quality management, operations research, business statistics, etc. He has been a Visiting Faculty at the Fontys University, The Netherlands (under European Commission Erasmus Programme): Logistics Management. He has been the international contributor to the book, *Managing Quality* by Thomas Foster, Pearson Edu. He is a reviewer to many reputed international journals. He has to his credits many training programs in the field of operations management.

Today, when academics and industries are increasingly more concerned to achieve set objectives without compromising tomorrow's scopes, making supply chain sustainable is the key for tomorrow. Among other functionalities, supply chains play vital roles in making business model sustainable. To achieve the goal of sustainability, supply chains have to meet the triple bottom line – ecological, social, and economic criteria. Shrivastava (1995) defined sustainability as "the potential for reducing long-term risks associated with resource depletion, fluctuations in energy costs, product liabilities, and pollution and waste management", clarifying risks and sustainability are inversely associated with each other. Therefore, the idea is to focus on sustainability that would bring risks down rather than investing time and money on both sustainability and risks separately.

The aim of this special issue is to analyse and attain sustainability and risks together and at the same time. Most of the papers we received were more focused on avoiding and dealing with risks and making the supply chain economically sustainable. Five accepted papers are summarised below.

In the first paper, 'Assessing Bangladesh rice supply chain through SCOR modelling frame for planning effective integration of public and private actors', Hossain and Jahan investigated rice supply chain in Bangladesh. As authors take the rice supply chain in

Bangladesh as informal, it is rather difficult to manage a supply chain when its existence and boundaries are not clear. The study identifies different actors involved in the supply chain and their links, and then imparts an understanding of key roles played by them. Authors highlight improvement of transport logistics; greater integration of the supply chain actors, and distribution facilities with government initiatives will mitigate risks and lapses. The findings of this paper will help the rice supply chain in improving its efficiency and reducing risks and government in drafting effective policies that can make the supply chain economically sustainable.

The second paper, 'A comprehensive contingency management framework for supply chain disruption risk management' by Zhang et al., explores the supply chain disruption and proposes a framework for supply chain disruption management. In order to use the framework to identify, evaluate, and control disruption risks, authors attempt to integrate supply management, demand management, operations management, and information management. The paper identifies risks involved at various stages, strategies to reduce it, and evaluates risks management capacity through vulnerability, resilience, sustainability, and security. The next paper, 'Supplier selection for competitive advantage in supply chain: an integrated fuzzy analytic hierarchy process using simulation approach' by Dewangan et al. discusses supplier selection processes used by Indian manufacturing industry. The paper selects innovation, after sale services, and pricing as main criteria and two sub-criteria for each of the main criteria. Using these criteria, the paper evaluates weights for potential suppliers and ranks them.

The fourth paper, 'Order fulfilment process for a large online retail in Singapore' by Tan and Mitra, examines various multi-channel retailing options. Changes in customers' purchasing habit and increasing online retailers have made traditional retailers to relook at their operations through different ways to reach customers. Focused on Singapore retailer, the paper examines different order fulfilment methods used by many of the multi-channel retailers. The paper also builds costing model that can help determining investment preference, with given capabilities and resources, in one channel over the other. The paper finds challenge in managing inventory when adopting multi-channel retailing. The final paper, 'Logistics complexity in Indian garment supply chain' by Rai et al. describes supply chain complexity by taking an example from garment industry in India. The paper elaborates causes of complexity and distinguishes logistics complexity from supply chain complexity. The paper then suggests solutions for reducing various complexities. Identifying and reducing the complexity have enough potential to make supply chain efficient and less risk-prone that in-turn is better placed on economic and operational sustainable parameters.

We hope that this special issue on supply chain sustainability and mitigating risks will help in understanding and advancement of sustainability along with various associated risks, and motivates researchers in exploring it further.

References

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