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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Hing Kai Chan is an Associate Professor in Operations Management in the Nottingham University Business School China. Previously, he was a Senior Lecturer at Norwich Business School, University of East Anglia. His current research interests are in sustainable operations and supply chain management, simulation and modelling, industrial informatics, and applications of soft computing techniques. He has published over 100 academic articles. His publications appear in various *IEEE Transactions*, *Decision Support Systems*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *International Journal of Production Research*, and among others. He is the Co-editor of *Industrial Management and Data Systems*, and serves as various capacities in a number of international journals.

Ming K. Lim is currently the Head of Centre for Supply Chain Improvement and a Professor of Supply Chain and Logistics Operations at Derby Business School, University of Derby, UK. His research interest is in the area of radio-frequency identification technology (RFID), agile/lean principles, reconfigurable manufacturing systems/logistics network, system optimisation, multi-agent systems, simulation, and heuristic algorithms. He has published in leading journals, such as *European Journal of Operational Research*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *International Journal of Production Research*, *Expert Systems with Applications*, and *Journal of the Operational Research Society*. He is the Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Supply Chain and Operations Resilience*, and Editor of *International Journal of Information Processing and Management* and *Advances in Information Science*.

Anthony Chiu is a JM Reyes Chair Professor of Industrial Engineering and Mechanical Engineering at De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines. His research interests are in the area of industrial ecology, sustainable consumption and production (SCP), inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), and resource efficient and cleaner production (RECP). He has served as international expert to the United Nations UNEP and UNIDO, and published more than 140 UN documents and journal articles in these areas. He is a member of *Journal of Cleaner Production* editorial board, and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the Philippine Institute of Industrial Engineers*.

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Sustainable business innovation and technology management have attracted increasing attention from both the practitioners and academics in recent years. In addition, globalisation exerts extra pressure on designing and implementing sustainable operations and supply chain from the global perspective. It is the major objective of the 12th International Conference on Business Innovation and Technology Management (ICBITM12), took place on 1–3 July 2013 in University of Derby, to address the aforementioned issues. The conference provides a forum for the exchange of ideas on the latest business innovation developments. Presentations and discussions at the conference are around the topics on eco-innovation, environment management, sustainable consumption and production, among others.

Reflection on this leads to the motivation for pursuing this special issue. The guest editors not only invited the authors of outstanding submissions from the conference to substantially revise and extend their conference papers, with a special focus on Sustainable business innovation and technology management, but we also strongly encouraged researchers who were unable to participate in the conference to submit articles for this call. The guest editors are delighted to see submissions from different parts of the world which utilise various methodologies include analytical modelling, conceptual papers, empirical studies and case studies. Only the best four papers are selected and the scope of the selected papers are summarised below.

The article ‘A theoretical model to investigate customer loyalty on logistics service providers for sustainable business performance’ authored by Soh et al. examined how customer royalty can affect sustainable business performance. More specifically, business performance of third party logistics (3PL) was the focal point of this study. Empirical findings based on 174 questionnaires revealed that logistics service quality (LSQ) is an important contributing factor (i.e., antecedent) to customer satisfaction. LSQ was measured in terms of functional quality and technical quality. Customer satisfaction then mediates the relationship between LSQ and customer loyalty. In addition, the factor ‘procedural switching costs’ is found to be a moderating between the relationship of customer satisfaction and customer loyalty. The authors employed partial least square method to conduct the statistical test.

With the recent advances on information communication technology (ICT), it is not surprising that such technology can be an enabler to sustainable business, simply similar to in other business arenas. Gong et al. adopted a resource-based approach to examine the role of ICT on sustainable food supply chains. Their survey study ‘Information communication technology and sustainable food supply chain: a resource-based analysis’ suggests that ICT resources are moderated by inter-firm coordination to influence the food supply chain performance. Although the respondents are all in China, the findings of this study can be generalised to global food supply chains very easily.

One eco-innovation which can be beneficial to sustainable business is various forms of renewable energy technologies. Tidy et al. conducted a case study and presented the findings in the article 'Prospects for on-farm anaerobic digestion as a renewable energy technology in the UK: learning from early adopters'. Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a renewable energy technology, but its adoption is far from satisfactory in spite of the contributions it can make to climate change. From their work with six cases, factors to success and barriers to overcome are discussed thoroughly. Future business changes are also suggested. The findings are intuitive to the implementation of other forms of renewable energy technologies.

The last, but certainly not the least, collection in this special issue explores the barriers and enablers to successful triple helix innovation model by Razak and White. In their article 'The Triple Helix model for innovation: a holistic exploration of barriers and enablers', the authors examined the main factors that influence the implementation and thus, more importantly, how the model can be operationalised in a more effective manner. The study raises the awareness on the application of the model, and how innovation can then contribute to sustainable business.

The guest editors are very much appreciated to the effort devoted by all authors who made quality submissions to this special issue. Furthermore, we are also grateful to all reviewers who spent their valuable time in reviewing manuscripts and provided high quality feedback to our authors. In addition, the guest editors cannot express our gratitude enough to the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Business Performance and Supply Chain Modelling*, Professor Kannan Govindan, for accepting the special issue proposal. Special thanks to the publication team of Inderscience who make the submission, review, and production processes smooth. This special issue would not have been able to be published without any one of the aforementioned contributions.