
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Goran Dukic is currently an Associate Professor at the Industrial Engineering Department, UNIZAG-FSB, teaching various courses from the fields of logistics and industrial engineering at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate studies. He is a Vice-President of the international board of International Centre for Innovation and Industrial Logistics (ICIIL) and was a Chairman of International Conference of Industrial Logistics (ICIL) 2012 and 2014. His research interests are mainly from warehouse and material handling system design and operations.

Petri Helo is a Professor of Industrial Management, Logistics Systems and the Head of Networked Value Systems research group, at the Department of Production, University of Vaasa, Finland. His research addresses the management of supply demand networks and use of IT in operations. He is also partner and board member at Wapice Ltd., a software solution provider of sales configurator systems and mass customisation solutions.

Maqsood Sandhu has been working as the Head of the Business Administration Department at the College of Business and Economic, UAEU. Having worked for several years as a Project Manager in a multinational corporation (Wärtsilä) in Finland, he retains close links with the industry and academia. His teaching experience span over 20 years to graduates as well as undergraduate and doctoral level students at the University of Vaasa (UV), Swedish School of Economics (Hanken), Vaasa University of Applied Sciences (PUV), Oulu Business School (OBS), University of Maryland University College (UMUC) and now at the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) since 2008.

This special issue presents selected papers from the conference ICIL 2014, held in Bol on Island Brac (Croatia) from June 11 to June 13, 2014, hosted by the *International Centre for Innovation and Industrial Logistics* and by the *Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb*.

The *International Centre for Innovation and Industrial Logistics* (ICIL) is a non-profit professional association which has for some time been developing an integrated view of industrial logistics, as well as sharing and exchanging ideas and research results among students, researchers, academics and industrialists. The biannual International Conference on Industrial Logistics (ICIL) is its main mean of attaining these objectives worldwide. It has moved from Rennes (France) 1993 to Ouro Preto (Brazil) in 1995, Chico (USA) in 1997, St. Petersburg (Russia) in 1999, Okinawa (Japan) in 2001, Vaasa (Finland) in 2003, Montevideo (Uruguay) in 2005, Kaunas (Lithuania) in 2006, Tel Aviv (Israel) in 2008, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 2010, Zadar (Croatia) in 2012 and Bol (Croatia) in 2014. In 2014, local organiser was again the *Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb*, following the successful conference in 2012. Bearing in mind the name of the organiser, used also for the name of this special edition, invited lectures reflected as well the innovation in scientific developments with a significant influence on the logistics – ‘New robotic challenges’ lectured by Professor Bojan Jerbic from Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb, and ‘Industry 4.0: opportunities and potentials’ lectured by Professor Wilfried Sihm from *Fraunhofer Institute Austria* and *Vienna University of Technology, Institute of Management Science*.

The ICIL 2014 conference featured a multidisciplinary program which included original research results, together with developed concepts, ideas and real life case study examples as contributions in the fields of logistics and supply chain management. Those were geared towards promoting the understanding of and solutions to the evolving logistics challenges all over the world. After a blind review process, 39 papers from 18 countries and three continents were published in the conference proceeding and were presented in six technical sessions.

This special issue contains eight articles selected from the conference, extended and re-evaluated again bearing in the mind the present volume of *International Journal of Logistics Systems and Management*. Selection deals with the improvement of logistical operational management in a wide range of industries and services, being of both theoretical and practical value. It is hoped that the publication of this selection will augment the benefits of the conference at which they were first presented.

The editors would like to thank all the authors who submitted their extended papers for this special issue. Gratitude is also expressed to the anonymous reviewers, who have kindly provided their assistance and expertise. Special thanks are extended to the Editor-in-Chief, Professor Angappa Gunasekaran, who kindly invited us to edit this special issue of the *IJLSM*.

We trust you will enjoy this issue.