
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Kjetil Fagerholt is a Professor in Operations Research at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Industrial Economics and Technology Management. He also holds positions as an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Marine Technology at the same university, and Scientific Adviser at the SINTEF Ocean. His main research interest are developing and applying operations research models and methods on planning problems in maritime transportation. He has published around 100 papers in international peer-reviewed journals, such as *Transportation Science*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *OMEGA*, *Transportation Research Part C, D and E*, *INFORMS Journal on Computing*, *Computers & Operations Research* and *Maritime Policy & Management*. He is an Associate Editor for *Transportation Science*, *Flexible Services & Manufacturing* and *Asia-Pacific Journal of Operational Research*, and Deputy Editor for *Journal of Marine Science and Technology*.

Dongping Song is a Professor of Supply Chain Management at the University of Liverpool. He studied and worked at the Nankai University, Zhejiang University, Newcastle University, Imperial College and Plymouth University. He is a senior member of IEEE and his research interests include applying mathematical modelling techniques and simulation-based tools to manufacturing and transport logistics problems, especially in the presence of uncertainty and risk, with the goal of advancing the knowledge and assisting industries to improve management considering economic, environmental and societal performance.

Shuaian Wang is an Associate Professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). Prior to joining PolyU, he worked as an Assistant Professor of Maritime and Supply Chain Management at the Old Dominion University, USA, and Lecturer of Operations Research at the University of Wollongong, Australia. His research interests include shipping network design, port operations planning, urban transport network modelling, sustainable transportation and green logistics, and supply chain management. He dedicates to rethinking and proposing innovative solutions to improve the efficiency of maritime and urban transportation systems, to promote environmental friendly and sustainable practices, and to transform business and engineering education.

Maritime transportation is the backbone of international trade. The maritime transportation system is a complex network consisting of many ports and shipping services and is closely linked to inland transportation. It is not an easy task to coordinate such a complex system so that cargoes can be efficiently delivered from their origins to their destinations. Traditionally, a number of decisions for maritime transportation have been made by experience. This contrasts with the airline industry, which has extensively adopted optimisation-based decision support tools in their planning and scheduling decisions. The aim of this issue is to identify models, methods, and tools to improve the decision-making process of maritime transportation. Eight papers are finally included in this special issue. The application contexts of the eight papers include shipping management (Du et al., Lin et al., Pratap et al., and Yi et al.), port operations (Hu et al. and Wang et al.), and inland transportation (Chang et al. and Liu et al.). Methodologically, the papers have applied multiobjective optimisation (Chang et al., Pratap et al., and Wang et al.), mixed-integer second-order cone programming (Du et al.), and meta-heuristics (Hu et al., Lin et al., Liu et al., and Yi et al.). All these papers have applied sophisticated quantitative tools to address important issues associated with maritime transportation.

This special issue is a product of the 9th International Forum on Shipping, Ports, and Airports (IFSPA) organised by the Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, in Hong Kong, China, on 22–25 May 2017. We hope that this special issue will serve as a contribution to solutions addressing today's challenges and stimulating further research on maritime transportation.