

Operations and Supply Chain Management: Editorial

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1. Introduction

More demanding customers, increasing uncertainty in the business environment, and more severe competition are among factors that contribute to the need for a better operations and supply chain management. On the other hand, the advancement of information technology have created much opportunity for organizations to work closely and better coordinated with their business partners. The success of operations and supply chain management of many organizations has been very much dependent on the ability of those chain members to increase information visibility so that operations and supply chain decisions can be made more appropriately. Academic and professional journals, magazines, and news media have reported numerous success stories of organizations implementing various aspects of operations and supply chain management. Yet, in many parts of the world, especially in the developing countries, operations and supply chain management practices are still very much lagging behind.

I am pleased to introduce the *Operations and Supply Chain Management: An International Journal* as an outlet for publishing high quality research and application papers in this important field. This journal is intended to be open source where the electronic version of the journal is available for free through the journal web page. By doing this, we hope to increase the visibility of the papers published in this journal and to help those with limited access to good quality journal papers in this field. We also intend

to foster publication of more papers from the Asia and Pacific region to enable better flow of knowledge from the East to the West and the vice versa. I believe that Asia Pacific has been and will continue to be an increasingly more important region in terms of operations and supply chain management along with more and more companies off-shoring their operations to this part of the world.

2. In this Issue

In this inaugural issue, we have been able to solicit interesting and high quality papers that will foster discussions of various interesting operations and supply chain management issues. The first paper, Beamon (2008), discusses sustainability and various other emerging and important issues in the field of supply chain management. The soaring of oil price recently is one of the real challenges facing all supply chain players all over the world. But each country would face different challenges as the government of different countries adopts such an increase differently. For example, the Indonesian government announced an increase of about 30% in oil prices on 24 May 2008. Certainly such a step increase creates much problem to all supply chain players. Beamon (2008) provides an excellent overview of the challenges and opportunities facing the supply chain of the future and describes the various effects these issues have on supply chain design, management, and integration.

Sodhi and Tang (2008) present an interesting and thought provoking title “Is the East Following the West or its own Destiny for Industrial Development? A Research Agenda based on Supply-Chain Integration”. In this paper, the authors compare supply chain integration between the West and Asian countries “through examples of companies known for their supply chain expertise and explore if and how supply-chain integration is different for these companies”. The paper also discusses alternative research hypotheses and related research questions as opportunities for future studies.

Supply chain technology adoption has always been an important issue especially if we relate the rate of adoption with the size of organizations. Power (2008) presents a survey study of technology adoption for small, medium, and large organizations in the fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) sectors. The study suggests that the adoption and use of supply chain management enabling technologies is more attractive to large organizations but at the same time these organizations appear to be more susceptible to common impediments to extended adoption.

The force to consider environmental aspect of supply chain operations has lead companies to view their supply chain as a closed-loop rather than a linear system. The paper “Modeling and Analysis of a Reverse Supply Chain Network for Lead-Acid Battery Manufacturing” by Lashkari and Zhang describes the design of a closed-loop supply chain network for a lead-acid battery manufacturing operation. The authors discuss the model which is multi-objective in nature and then present numerical examples to show the application of the model. It is expected that the model can be generalized to other cases.

The need for companies to introduce more product variety has posed problems to manufacturing supply chains. These companies need to have a strategy to produce large product variety with relatively efficient production processes. The paper by Shamsuzzoha, Helo, and Kekale discusses mass customization approach using Design Structure

Matrix (DSM) methodology, which is a valuable tool for producing different product variety quickly and economically. By using the Volvo Company as a case, the authors show how Design Structure Matrix (DSM) help customizing the products efficiently.

3. Call for Contribution

The journal invites original contributions from both academics and practitioners. Papers that present modeling, empirical, review, conceptual, and application works are most welcome. The Journal will publish original papers in the broad area of operations management and supply chain management, including, but are not limited to:

- Operations/Supply chain strategy
- Operations/Supply chain design
- Operations/Supply chain planning
- Inventory planning and control
- Procurement management
- Demand forecasting
- Demand management
- Product design and supply chain
- Transportation and distribution
- Warehousing & material handling
- Logistics outsourcing
- Lean manufacturing
- Quality management
- Maintenance management

Guest editors are welcome to edit special issues pertinent to any aspect of operations and supply chain management.

4. Acknowledgement

I am grateful to all members of the editorial board of this journal for their contribution in soliciting articles and reviewing them for this and the coming issues. I would also like to thank the authors for giving the opportunity for this new journal to publish their high quality papers.

Nyoman Pujawan is a Professor of Supply Chain Engineering at the Department of Industrial Engineering, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology (ITS), Surabaya, Indonesia and the Editor-in-Chief of the *Operations and Supply Chain Management: An International Journal*. He received a first degree in Industrial

Engineering from ITS, Indonesia, Master of Engineering in Industrial Engineering from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Bangkok, Thailand, and PhD in Management Science from Lancaster University, UK. His papers have been published in the *International Journal of Production Economics*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *Production Planning and Control*, *International Journal of Operations and Quantitative Management*, *International Journal of Integrated Supply Management*, *International Journal of Industrial and Systems Engineering* and *International Journal of Logistics Systems and Management* among others. He is in the editorial board of a number of international journals and the initiator of the International Conference on Operations and Supply Chain Management.