This special issue contains extended versions of selected papers from the 10^{th} International Conference for Global Business and Development: Creativity & Innovation: Imperatives for Global Business and Development, Kyoto, Japan, August 8-11, 2007. The set includes five articles with both theoretical and empirical content that were chosen articles because they cover a wide range of issues, promote cross-learning, and contribute to the present understanding and the existing body of knowledge in SCM.

Realizing the complexity of supply networks, Iraj Mahdavi et al. have introduced the concept of dynamic information flow in an intelligent supply chain through an artificial agent. The study concentrates on designing a coordination mechanism by transforming each entity’s quantitative and qualitative attributes into mathematical rules while incorporating an individual’s information in order to achieve a higher performance in a network. The graphical-based simulation of material, information, and financial flows are utilized in order to both evaluate the performance of the network dynamically and to increase the visibility of such complex systems.

Research on international subcontracting has generally been policy-oriented and industry-focused. There seems to be a lack of understanding of this issue from an international business perspective. Yue Wang conceptualizes international subcontracting as a type of relational contract formed by buyers and suppliers from different countries that aims at facilitating the sourcing of products or components with buyer-specific requirements. The article builds a transaction cost model for studying the choice of international subcontracting as an intermediate governance structure against its market and hierarchical alternatives. The author develops a set of propositions to aid future empirical research and to provide managers with guidelines for organizing supply chains across borders.

AU, K.F and CHAN, M.H. Eve adopt the gravity trade model to analyze the country-specific, social, political determinants and economic indicators that underpin and influence apparel trade with the EU-5 and American markets and their trading markets from 1990-2006. Since previous gravity, trading model research has been mainly focused on regional investigations and general trading scenarios rather than specifically for apparel trade, this study makes a major contribution to the existing literature by filling this gap and providing insights for the major determinants that underpin exports of major apparel suppliers to the EU-5 and the American markets.

Kwok Hung Lau and Wun Leong Ma investigate the significance of logistics outsourcing in global supply chain management and conclude that selection of a competent integrated logistics service provider is critical. Among the most important various selections are core competencies and the ability to achieve economies of scale and pass the cost...
savings back to clients. The paper proposes a supplementary framework for evaluation of third-party logistics service providers (3PL) as global logistics partners for international firms focusing on the core competencies of 3PL providers and their ability to attain economies of scale thereby helping users achieve their outsourcing objectives.

The green supply chain management system introduced by Heekyung An is a practicable tool for final manufacturers who have tried to manage their suppliers and comply with the new environmental legislation of European Union. The author has introduced the green supply chain management system or the present activities of enterprises complying with EU legislation through several conference presentations.

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