Preface

Today’s highly competitive global market demands that companies pay closer attention to their supply chain networks more than ever before. However, uncertainty in supply and demand, incomplete product life cycles, and complex product structures prevent supply chains from acquiring faster responsiveness and flexibility. As such, the purpose of this handbook is to provide the reader with different perspectives regarding global supply chains which will permit her or him to adapt current practices to meet present and future realities.

There is certainly plenty of extant literature on the subject of supply chain management. What is attempted in this publication is a collection of viewpoints from academics and practitioners alike which departs from the standard offerings of purely academic- or purely practitioner-oriented literature. In the following pages one can find a diverse composition of topics ranging from information quality in supply chain management software to green supply chain initiatives. Other examples include the following:

- High Level Inventory Network Modeling Approaches
- Cultivating Global Entrepreneurs in the Food Supply Chain
- Strategic Value Creation in a Supply Chain
- Sustainability - A Comprehensive Literature
- Supply Chain Relationships: From Conflict to Collaboration
- Review of RFID Applications in Perishable Inventory Management
- Supply Chain Resilience
- Evolution of the Role of Measurement Systems in Industrial Decision Support: Industrial Experiences and a Research Roadmap
- Supply Chain System and Barriers of Exporting: Evidence from Ghana in Sub-Saharan Africa
- An Empirical View of Knowledge Management
- Supply Chain Process as Key Drivers for Upgrading in the Semiconductor Global Supply Chain: The Case of Brazilian Design Houses
- Picking with Impact - Best Practices for the Quality Improvement and Cost Minimizing of Consignment in the Logistics of an International Manufacturer

The reader may wish to know the background of the author with regards to the topic of this handbook. In a nutshell, I have been involved in supply chain issues since the very early days of what we know now as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). Working with Fortune 500 firms in the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Russia to implement their various financial, marketing, manufacturing, supply chain, and related systems in a variety of industries and languages over the years has afforded me a relatively unique perspective with regards to the topic of this publication. I am forever grateful to the IBM Corporation and other firms in Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the USA for the experiences they provided which made this book effort possible.
Preface

There are certainly other areas of supply chain management that could go into a publication such as this to provide an even more holistic view of the subject. Examples can include channel research, hierarchial production planning, advanced planning systems (APS), transport planning for procurement and distribution, and event-based planning; however, the extant literature on these areas is abundant but will be included in future editions of this publication.

On a final note, it is important to highlight the issue of contemporary globalization with regards to fast-changing events that can have a significant impact on supply chains, especially economic and geopolitical concerns. Since supply chains today often span a number of continents and countries, it is critical for business executives to keep a close watch on events such as the European debt crisis, terrorist acts around the world, a potentially nuclear Iran, and even the very recent diplomatic (re)recognition between Cuba and the USA. All of these events provide threats as well as opportunities for global business operations that cannot be ignored.

Bryan Christiansen
PryMarke, LLC, USA
July, 2015

REFERENCES


