Foreword

by Michael Bourlakis

It is well documented that innovations in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) have had a profound impact on firms. It has also been argued that information technology related business changes are greater than the changes caused by the industrial revolution. Unsurprisingly, in the past few years, we have witnessed the increasing role of ICT within logistics and supply chains, and many academics and professionals have noted that without the use of ICT, modern logistics and supply chain systems would not be able to operate successfully. More importantly, in many contexts, ICT and its applications offer a competitive advantage to companies, such as increased operational efficiency, improved responsiveness, as well as better integration, alignment, and collaboration with other supply chain companies.

This book is titled *E-Logistics and E-Supply Chain Management: Applications for Evolving Business*, and therefore, it aims to analyse many key innovation and changes emanating from the use of ICT within logistics and supply chains. The book contains three major sections (“The Concepts of E-Logistics and E-Supply Chain Management,” “E-Logistics and E-Supply Chain Management,” and “Evolving Business”) and fifteen comprehensive chapters detailing a plethora of ICT features including Web applications, e-procurement, cloud computing, ERP systems, and RFID, to name a few. The authors have also carefully selected these book chapters, as they represent many different industries and sectors, such as logistics services, transportation, shipping, education, and e-learning. They have also examined the application of ICT in relation to many topical supply chain issues, such as collaboration and integration, outsourcing and 4PL, leaness, traceability, and CRM, and have provided many new, original, and interesting insights to the issues explored.

Based on the above, I believe that this book is a welcome addition to the current logistics and supply chain management literature. It will serve sufficiently the undergraduate and postgraduate student market, and many researchers and practitioners will find this book extremely beneficial. Most impressive is the breadth and depth of the ICT issues covered. These issues are not discussed on a “stand alone” basis, but are fully incorporated in a range of logistics and supply chain contexts and issues.

To conclude, I have no reservations to recommend this book to anybody interested in E-Logistics and E-Supply Chain Management.

*Michael Bourlakis*
*Chair in Supply Chain Management*
*Brunel University, UK*
Michael Bourlakis graduated with a B.Sc. in Business Administration from Athens University of Economics and Business and completed MBA and PhD degrees at University of Edinburgh. Michael has produced more than 170 publications including journal papers, book chapters, and conference papers. His papers have appeared in leading supply chain management, marketing, and business journals, such as Supply Chain Management: An International Journal, International Journal of Logistics: Research & Applications, International Journal of Logistics Management, European Journal of Marketing, Journal of Marketing Management, Journal of Business & Industrial Marketing, Environment & Planning D, Technological Forecasting and Social Change. He has received funding from various bodies including the European Union, Food Standards Agency (UK), and Regional Development Agencies (UK). Michael is on the Editorial Board of six journals; he is a member of the European Technology Platform (Food for Life, European Union) and the Academic Committee of the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport (CILTUK). From January 2013 onwards, he will serve as a joint Editor-in-Chief for a leading logistics journal, International Journal of Logistics: Research & Applications.