

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Decision Support Technologies and Applications

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According to its mission, the *International Journal of Applied Logistics* (IJAL) disseminates supply chain management and applied logistics theories, technology development, innovation, and transformation in various economic sectors upon current, advancing technological opportunities and market imperatives. The IJAL addresses latest academic research and industry practices on emerging enabling technologies including RFID, innovations in logistics and supply chain management, and transformations of a more efficient economy. Hence, the topics of this edition match very well with the mission of IJAL. In four papers decision support frameworks and methods are described and analyzed in line with the improvement of collaboration and cooperation in production and logistics networks. Also their applicability in network design and operation will be outlined.

In the paper written by Selin Soner Kara, Omar Ayadi, and Naoufel Cheikhrouhou an extensive group decision methodology for the alliance partner selection problem in collaborative networked organizations is presented. The selection process of an adequate partner considered for a specific objective is as we know a key success factor. Two main phases are integrated in the methodology. In the first phase, criteria and experts weightings are calculated to determine the criteria importance

using the Analytical Hierarchy Process. In the second phase, a technique for order preference by similarity to ideal solution is proposed to rank the different alternatives.

The paper of Günther Schuh, Volker Stich, Tobias Brosze, Till Potente, Thomas Jasinski, and Stefan Cuber focuses on delivery reliability in machinery and equipment industry from a European point of view. European machinery and equipment manufacturers face multiple logistical challenges in their daily business. This paper presents a framework for improving delivery reliability in non-hierarchical production networks by applying market mechanisms. Knowing the financial consequences of a supplier's belated delivery provides useful information which can be applied in terms of financial incentives.

In the paper of Anne V. Goodchild, Kelly Pitera, and Edward McCormack the differential responses of shippers and motor carriers to travel time variability is studied and analyzed. Shippers as well as forwarders and truckers are impacted by and react differently to travel time variability due to their positions within the supply chain. The paper describes the disparity in concerns and the strategies shippers and motor carriers are likely to engage in to address time travel variability. This knowledge allows for a better understanding of how investments

to mitigate travel time variability will impact shippers and motor carriers.

The paper of Yun Liu and Peiji Shao refers to the application of RFID in the life-time traceability of animals. In order to record movements of an animal, the electronic pedigree designed for drugs to animals, which acts as standard data elements and is transferred between partners, is adapted. Then a CIS is proposed based on the authors methodology which ensures movements of the animal to be recorded correctly. Results

in a case study show that their solution can facilitate the life-time traceability.

All of the readers we wish much pleasure in studying the papers in this edition.

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Hans-Dietrich Haasis studied industrial engineering, graduated and promoted to professor at the University of Karlsruhe. In 1994 he was appointed as professor at the University of Bremen. From 1986–1994 he was leader of the research group System Analysis: Energy, environment, industrial production at the institute of Business Administration and Industrial Production. He gave lectures at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Petrole et des Moteurs, Paris Rueil-Malmaison, the State University of Finance & Economics St. Petersburg, the University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and at the Private University Witten-Herdecke. Since 1997 he is full-professor for Business Administration, Production Management and Industrial Economics. From July 1998 until 2001 he was dean of the department of economics. He's member and was from 2002–2005 speaker of the Research Association Logistics of the University of Bremen. In June 2002 he became honorary doctor of the International Independent University for Ecology and Political Science, Moscow. In 2003 he received the B.A.U.M.- Environment Award. Since Dezember 2001 he is director of the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics, Bremen. Prof. Dr. Haasis is amongst others member of the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals and member of the panel of experts of the BMBF framework programme on Research for Sustainability. He is member of the Editorial Board of "Logistics Management", member of the Advisory Board of "OR Spektrum" and member of the Editorial Review Board of the "International Journal of Operations and Quantitative Management".

Zongwei Luo is a senior researcher at the E-business Technology Institute, The University of Hong Kong (China). He also served as the Affiliate Senior Consultant to ETI Consulting Limited. His research has been supported by various funding sources, including China NSF, HKU seed funding, HK RGC, and HK ITF. His research results have appeared in major international journals and leading conferences. He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Applied Logistics and serves as an associate editor and editorial advisory board member in many international journals. Dr. Luo's recent interests include applied research and development in the area of service science and computing, innovation management and sustainable development, technology adoption and risk management, and e-business model and practices, especially for logistics and supply chain management.