Foreword

by Zongwei Luo

Traditional Logistics and Supply Chain Management (LSCM) aims at movement of goods and services from one end of a chain to the other through different stages so as to improve the efficiency, productivity, and profitability of the entire process. Spanning across the economic function of the value chain of a product or service, LSCM has been instrumental in connecting and smoothing business activities, forming various kinds of business relationships among LSCM participants. Relationship management in LSCM increasingly becomes one of the core functions in today's marketplace for companies to strive for business competiveness to meet the dynamic economy calls for innovative logistics operations and supply chain management to address uncertainties and improve efficiencies for business agility. E-Logistics and E-Supply Chain Management (e-LSCM) provides technological solutions with electronic LSCM infrastructure and networks that can support interconnections among LSCM participants and enable them to collaborate in a much more efficient and effective manner with provisions of agile and responsive planning and business decisions capabilities.

Key technological and business enablers for e-LSCM includes Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, Cloud computing and infrastructures, service innovation, and advanced business analytics. They are critical to develop infrastructural, application, and management technologies for e-LSCM related processes and services, leading to, for example, shorter lead times, reduced working capital needs, and closer customer relationships. E-LSCM will ideally enable informed decision-making and better market adaptation capabilities for companies to strive for business competiveness and sustainability in the fast changing business environment.

This book titled *E-Logistics and E-Supply Chain Management: Applications for Evolving Business* has 15 well selected chapters to give students, researchers, and practitioners a critical understanding of current academic and pragmatic approaches to e-LSCM. Among those, 3 chapters are devoted to the introduction of the concepts of e-LSCM, 7 chapters are devoted to the examination of various elements of e-LSCM, and 5 chapters are devoted to solution enablers for evolving business. With good balanced materials, this book would serve well as an aid to readers who like to read introductory materials of e-LSCM and to those who like to gain deeper insights in specific focused areas of e-LSCM.

Overall, this book provides updated materials disclosing innovative findings for e-LSCM. As e-LSCM not only helps enterprises to improve their business processes today, but also enables them to adopt technological solutions in the future, it supports business evolutions, especially enabling innovative business models for creating value for customers. This book on e-LSCM would, of course, help readers to gain understanding and insights in this important yet fast developing field.

Zongwei Luo
University of Hong Kong, China

Zongwei Luo *is a Senior Researcher at the E-Business Technology Institute, The University of Hong Kong (China). Before that, he was working at the IBM TJ Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights (NY, USA). He also served as the Affiliate Senior Consultant to ETI Consulting Limited. His research has been supported by various funding sources, and his research results have appeared in major international journals and leading conferences with 5 books and over 100 papers published, including an IEEE International Conference best paper award. 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 Internet of things and Cloud computing, service science and computing, innovation management and sustainable development, technology adoption and risk management, and e-business model and practices, especially for advanced manufacturing, structural health management, and logistics and supply chain management.*