

# Preface

Globalization and virtualization of business relations increase the importance and complexity of logistical challenges faced by companies. The coordination and integration as well as the management of logistic networks especially regarding the relations to logistic service providers become vital factors of competitiveness. The combined knowledge of scientists and practitioners about this led to the development and discussion of strategies, methods and tools to enable companies to meet the high demands concerning logistical tasks.

This proceedings volume consists of selected papers presented at the conference *Logistics Management 2009* (LM 09), held at the University of Hamburg, Germany, from September 02<sup>nd</sup> to 04<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The LM 09 is the continuation of a series of scientific conferences initiated in 1999 and aims to stimulate the exchange of ideas and discussions among scientists and practitioners about current problems, solutions, and future development in logistics. Previous conferences were held in Bremen (1999), Aachen (2001), Braunschweig (2003), Dresden (2005), and Regensburg (2007). These are well documented as follows:

- Kopfer, H. and C. Bierwirth (eds.) (1999). *Logistik Management*. Springer, Berlin.
- Sebastian, H.-J. and Grünert, T. (eds.) (2001). *Logistik Management – Supply Chain Management und e-Business*. Teubner, Stuttgart.
- Spengler, T., Voß, S. and Kopfer, H. (eds.) (2004) *Logistik Management – Prozesse, Systeme, Ausbildung*. Physica, Heidelberg.
- Lasch, R. and Janker, C.G. (eds.) (2005) *Logistik Management. Innovative Logistikkonzepte*. Gabler, Wiesbaden.
- Otto, A. and Obermaier, R. (eds.) (2007) *Logistikmanagement: Analyse, Bewertung und Gestaltung logistischer Systeme*. Gabler, Wiesbaden

The conference is held in cooperation with the Scientific Commission “Logistics” within the Association of University Professors of Business Administration. The conference is situated within Hamburg the “schönste Stadt der Welt,” or, in even more glamorous words, “the gate to the world.” The city is known for its logistics expertise, e.g., with its port being the second largest in Europe – after Rotterdam

– and as the second biggest container port in Europe belonging to the biggest container ports worldwide. Moreover, the metropolitan region is home of numerous logistics companies and activities. That makes Hamburg the perfect location for the Logistics Management Conference 2009.

The contributions that are presented at the conference as well as the selected papers in these proceedings show that logistics management is gaining more and more importance in various areas. Academics as well as practitioners are well involved in the development of the field. We group the papers into different parts as follows:

- Coordination and Contracts
- Production Planning and Lot Sizing
- Handling and Transportation
- Logistics and Reverse Logistics
- Applications and Case Studies

While the title of the book suggests a German conference, this in fact is not the case as more English than German papers had been included, indicating the growing internationality of the conference. While we believe that these proceedings provide insights into the state-of-the-art of the field, we also hope and know that the story is never-ending. That is, new advances on different levels are expected, taking into consideration innovations in all areas in logistics management.

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