

Preface

This book entitled “Toward Sustainable Operations of Supply Chain and Logistics Systems” aims to cover contemporary critical issues of logistics operations and supply chain management with special focus on sustainability. The supply chain operations have big impact on the natural environment. Nowadays, the procurement, production or distribution, and accompanying transportation operations or warehousing are significant on the global scale. Improvement of logistics operations by supply chain cooperation can results in reducing the burden to the natural environment. Reverse logistics has significantly developed in the last decade. Reverse network configuration, forward and reverse supply chain integration, and management of the recovery activities are examples of trends in logistics toward a more environmental friendly business practices.

The book covers both qualitative and qualitative aspects of sustainable supply chain and logistics operations management. The focus is placed on a multidisciplinary approach. This book presents viewpoints of the academic and the industry personnel on the challenges for implementation of sustainable police in logistics operations. Some best practices from different countries and industries are presented as reference for implementation of sustainable policies in the private enterprises and public sector’s institutions. This book might be valuable to both academics and practitioners wishing to deepen their knowledge in the field of logistics operations and management with regard to sustainability issues.

The authors present in the individual chapters the results of the theoretical and empirical studies related to the following topics:

- Supply chain management,
- Sustainable logistics,
- Manufacturing and production logistics,
- Warehousing, distribution, and transportation problems,
- Metaheuristics and artificial technology methods,
- Mathematical Programming and Operations Research, and
- Statistical Techniques.

This book includes research contributions of geographically dispersed authors from Asia, Africa, Americas, and Europe. The high scientific quality of the chapters was assured by a rigorous double-blind review process implemented by the ICLS 2015 organizers.

This book provides an interesting composition of theoretical trends and practical applications. It presents selected papers of authors participating in the 10th International Congress on Logistics and SCM Systems (ICLS 2015) which is held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during 1–4 July 2015. This Congress is organized by the Asian Institute of Technology and the International Federation of Logistics and SCM Systems (IFLS) to function as an international forum for leading academics, researchers, and practitioners to discuss and exchange ideas on the latest developments and to seek opportunities for collaboration among the participants as well as to promote excellence in the field. Although not all of the received chapters appear in this book, the efforts spent and the work done for this book are very much appreciated.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Board of the International Federation of Logistics and SCM Systems (IFLS) for the valuable contribution to the volume:

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