

# Preface

We live in exciting times. The technological revolution in information and communication technology has been going on for several decades already and there seemingly is no near end in sight. The possibilities for industrial companies are enormous, but so are the challenges.

The globalized economy has done its fair share in reducing extreme poverty levels. The United Nations report that the target of reducing extreme poverty by half was met five years ahead of the 2015 deadline: more than 1 billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990.

The environmental burden humankind puts onto our planet is becoming bigger and bigger, threatening eco-systems and our own well-being in the future. Industrial companies are affecting, and affected by, all three environments. In fact they contribute significantly both to poverty relief by employing hundreds of millions of people but also to the ecological challenges we are confronted with by exploiting natural reserves and by their emissions to the environment.

Thus, the question of how to find the path to intelligent, collaborative and sustainable manufacturing is of eminent importance.

We invited experts, academics, researchers, and industrial practitioners from around the world to the Advances in Production Management Systems Conference 2017 in Hamburg, Germany, to contribute with ideas, concepts and theories. A large international panel of experts reviewed all the papers and selected the best to be presented and to be included in these conference proceedings.

In this collection of papers, the authors share their perspectives as well as their concepts and solutions for the challenges industrial companies are confronted with and the great opportunities new technologies, collaboration and the developments described above offer.

The chapters are organized in two parts

- Smart Manufacturing (Volume 1)
- Collaborative and Sustainable Manufacturing (Volume 2)

We hope that our readers will discover valuable new ideas and insights.

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