

EDITORIAL

JOURNAL OF TRANSPORT AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

The Department of Transport and Supply Chain Management at the University of Johannesburg is proud to bring you this second edition of the *Journal of Transport and Supply Chain Management*.

The Journal continues to serve as an independent publication for scientific contributions in the field of transport and supply chain management, i.e. logistics, operations management, purchasing management, distribution management, warehousing management, transportation (all modes), production planning and related fields. Theoretical, empirical and applied articles are considered for publication. The Journal seeks to present a diverse range of articles covering a variety of subject matter within the arena of transport and supply chain management.

The improved management of transport and supply chains can make significant contributions at both company and national level. Companies are under pressure not only from customers for increased quality and service, but also from shareholders for increased market share and profitability. They are being forced to seek innovative ways in which to increase their competitive advantage and improve their profitability. Furthermore, as efficiency and effectiveness are improved with respect to transport and supply chains, the economies of the countries involved are positioned to improve and contribute to the national welfare. Transport plays a crucial role with regard to the economic, social and political development of a country and nation; from an infrastructural and regulatory point of view, the planning, policy and provision thereof must be carefully considered.

In South Africa, the CSIR, in their fourth annual State of Logistics Survey, highlighted the fact that logistics and supply chain management remain as important, if not more important, than ever before. They quote the World Bank which reports on international logistics competitiveness and illustrates not only the importance of this critical business function, but also the concern over high logistics costs in South Africa. The steady increase in the cost of fuel, capital, labour and equipment continues to be a concern. Congestion, delays, security, infrastructure development and maintenance, as well as other matters of inefficiency, continue to require much attention and improvement.

Nevertheless there are positive developments in the South African transport scenario including Transnet's plans to invest R80 billion over the next five years to provide capacity ahead of demand. Rail freight will



receive R40 billion, ports R25 billion, and pipelines R12 billion. This includes expanding the coal and iron ore export lines and improving the country's port and pipeline infrastructure. Internationally there is also increasing attention being paid to environmental issues, cost efficiencies and productivity in the fields of transport and supply chain operations and management.

Logistics management therefore continues to be critical to companies and countries. Pressures in these micro- and macro-environments continue to mount, with 2008 having seen significant increases in fuel prices and interest rates, for example. In these circumstances role-players are forced to seek competitive advantage through efficiency and excellence, supported by their supply chains and the management thereof.

Increased attention also needs to be given to passenger transport, in particular public passenger transport, as it continues to impact on the mobility of the nations of the world and their access to various activities – in effect impacting on the well-being and overall welfare of all peoples.

In this edition of the Journal we seek to contribute to creating an awareness of and encouraging debate in various areas by focusing on issues such as maintenance costs in transport, supply chain security, economic environments and challenges for transport and supply chain management, partnerships in transport sectors, logistics models and frameworks, as well as research priorities and the need for sustained improvement in these fields.

We continue to invite practitioners to submit articles for publication in the Journal that will contribute to expertise, growth and productivity in the fields of transport and supply chain management. By considering the latest practices, processes, trends and issues in these critical sectors, participants will be assisted in keeping abreast of many dynamic developments and requirements.

It is with pleasure that we present this second issue of the Journal to you.

BEVERLEY KUJAWA
EDITOR