

LRN Newsletter

January 2010

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Chairman's introduction

Welcome to the January edition of the *LRN Newsletter*. At the time of writing this short piece, many of the papers, TV and radio have been commenting on what has changed during the first decade of the 21st Century. A recent item concerned with 'defining the decade' noted the dramatic changes in the use of the internet. Very little of the discussion has been specifically about logistics, but it is clear that the idea that 'history has been on fast forward' as Edward Stourton put it on Radio 4, has had major impacts on the way we view the supply chain. These changes are reflected to some extent in the research themes discussed at LRN and other conferences. Not only have research themes changed, but so, too, has the way in which research is carried out and indeed the way we now teach. The rise of web-based questionnaires has seen respondents already exhibiting questionnaire fatigue with this new way to capture information. Increasingly, researchers need to be able to gain the attention of respondents who have many distractions in their working time. The rise of mobile communications and the capability to be in contact by email and text messages at all times will not be seen by everyone as entirely beneficial. Where are the times when you could be sure of an uninterrupted hour to carry out that review you promised the editor or to make the final changes to a paper? Web-based videos and podcasts have now become more widespread as teaching tools, and many aspects of logistics are well suited to the use of this technology.

Perhaps in 2010, the LRN should find the opportunity to review some of the ways in which we can use new technologies to increase the dissemination of the research activity that emerges from the annual conference. But time to stop now and just check my email!

Best wishes for 2010.

Mike Browne FCILT

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Logistics Research Network Annual Conference

8th–10th September 2010, Leeds University

'Towards the sustainable supply chain: balancing the needs of business, economy and the environment'

The 15th Annual Conference of the Logistics Research Network (LRN) will be organised by the University of Leeds, Institute for Transport Studies.

The Conference theme: *Towards the sustainable supply chain: balancing the needs of business, economy and the environment*, recognises the growing importance of managing sustainable supply chains in a changing and challenging global environment.

In addition to the plenary sessions presented by industry speakers, the conference programme will also reflect the wide range of research topics relating to logistics, supply chain management and transportation. The conference provides a forum to present and discuss current issues and for networking with international colleagues.

PhD Workshop

Wednesday 8th September 2010, 09.00–13.30 hrs

The workshop precedes the main LRN Conference and is open to all students undertaking doctoral research in the field of logistics and supply chain management. The workshop aims to encourage networking between students from different universities, to identify and discuss common problems and explore research methodologies and their potential applications.

LRN Awards

Dissertation of the Year Awards are presented each year at the conference dinner for the best undergraduate, Masters and PhD theses.

Call for Papers

Abstract submissions deadline: Wednesday 17th March.

Structured abstracts of no more than 500 words and formatted as follows should be submitted by email to Dr Tony Whiteing by Wednesday 17th March 2010.

Title of paper

Author 1, author 2 + affiliations

Abstract

Purpose: text

Research approach: text

Findings and originality: text

Research impact: text

Practical impact: text

Keywords

word1, word2, word3

Email: A.E.Whiteing@its.leeds.ac.uk

Details of the conference and workshop, web site: www.lrn2010.org.uk

LRN NEWS

Student awards

Annual Logistics/Supply Chain Dissertation Awards 2010 New submission dates

The awards are presented at the LRN Conference Dinner, which this year will be held at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate. The successful students receive a personal cheque for £500 and an invitation to attend the dinner. The awards are open to students based at UK and Republic of Ireland universities.

Undergraduate and Masters Dissertations Closing date: 31st March 2010

Nominations for the awards are invited from course tutors and are open to dissertations that have been successfully completed during the **calendar year 2009**.

Nomination forms and the award criteria, CILT web site:
www.ciltuk.org.uk/pages/academicawards
or from Sarah Skinns, Corby Office.
Email: sarah.skinn@ciltuk.org.uk

2009 award winners

The Undergraduate Dissertation of the Year Award was presented to Nabil Ahmed, University of Manchester Business School, for: *Infrastructural limitations and the impact of terrorism on supply chain risk management in Pakistan*.

The Masters Dissertation of the Year Award was presented to Verena Flitsch, University of Plymouth, for: *Collaboration in the German food and beverage industry – extended supplier networks*.

PhD Award – the James Cooper Memorial Cup Closing date: 21st May 2010

Submissions are being accepted for the James Cooper Award from researchers who have successfully completed their PhD examination between 1st May 2009 and 30th April 2010 and who can provide evidence – for example, a letter from the university registry.

Guidelines for submissions are available on the CILT web site:
www.ciltuk.org.uk/pages/academicawards
or from Sarah Skinns, Corby Office.
Email: sarah.skinn@ciltuk.org.uk

2009 Award Winner

The PhD Award, the James Cooper Memorial Cup was presented to Dr Yingli Wang, Cardiff Business School, for: *Electronic market places for tailored logistics*. Professor Mohamed Naim collected the award on behalf of Yingli Wang, who was on maternity leave.

Freight Best Practice Student Award

Now in its third year, this award is an integral part of the LRN conference dinner. It is managed by AECOM on behalf of Freight Best Practice (FBP).

The 2010 Student of the Year Essay Competition is open to all UK-based university students. The essay title and submission date will be announced during January and will be available on the FBP web site: www.freightbestpractice.org.uk
Staff and students who would like to sign up to receive early notification of the topic should email:
info@freightbestpractice.org.uk

Winning essay

The author of the winning essay will receive a prize of £500 and a trophy, which will be presented at the LRN 2010 Conference.

The 2009 award was presented to Dean Bernard, an MSc student at Birmingham City University, for his essay: *The carbon challenge – what measures should the logistics industry be taking to reduce its carbon footprint?*

To obtain a copy of the essay, web site:
www.freightbestpractice.org.uk/default.aspx?appid=3369

'International Journal of Logistics Research and Applications'

2010 preferential subscription rates

The 2010 subscription for CILT(UK) and Institute of Operations Management (IOM) members remains at the 2009 rate of £50 for six issues.

The International Journal of Logistics Research and Applications is the official journal of the LRN. It concentrates on papers of an academic standard, but is relevant to practitioners. Delegates who attended the LRN 2009 Conference will,

as part of their delegate fee, automatically receive the journal in 2010.

To apply for a subscription or to renew an existing subscription contact: CILT Webshop. Tel: 01536 740123. Email: webshop@ciltuk.org.uk

‘Modal shift to rail’ LRN Workshop

Hosted by the University of Westminster, the workshop, which was held in mid-November 2009, attracted 40 participants from academia, the rail and logistics service companies.

The results of a survey of rail-users – undertaken as part of the six-university Green Logistics research programme and presented by Allan Woodburn, University of Westminster, and Tony Whiteing, University of Leeds – highlighted issues that are limiting the move from road to rail, which includes:

- Costs – end-to-end costs are higher than road
- Contracts – they can be rigid, complicated and inflexible and do not allow for volume fluctuations resulting from demand fluctuations
- Delays in delivery, damage to goods and loss of product

However, of the companies in the food and drink sector surveyed, the majority accepted the environmental benefits of rail, but few had made the modal shift, even though there are successful examples of rail usage, such as the movement of goods from England to Scotland. The factors cited that impact the move to rail included:

- Location – position of factories, ports and customers in relation to rail terminals can have a positive or negative impact
- Service quality – the general view is that the sector is not good enough and rail is not ideal for some food products – for example, those requiring temperature-controlled transport
- Transit times – to and from Europe is not as competitive as road and the high costs of using the Channel tunnel are an obstacle to increased usage

- Costs – long-term road transport costs are expected to rise, increasing rail’s potential competitiveness, although some companies that had switched to rail found costs to be similar
- Backhauling – the lack of backhauling potential is seen as a disadvantage

A modal shift from road to rail is generally viewed as beneficial to the environment and society. However, companies are tending to concentrate on sustainable packing and other aspects of sustainability and not environmentally friendly transport. The move to rail will only come when the services are more convenient, cost competitive and enhanced network.

Papers from the workshop are available on Green Logistics project web site: www.greenlogistics.org

MORE NEWS

Book launch: ‘Supply Chain Management and Logistics in a Volatile Global Environment’

Launched at Logistics Ireland 2009

Edward Sweeney’s new book: *Supply Chain Management and Logistics in a Volatile Global Environment*, was launched to coincide with the Logistics Ireland 2009 conference. Following on from: *Perspectives on Supply Chain Management and Logistics* (Blackhall Publishing, 2007), it explores a range of supply chain management (SCM) and logistics challenges in the rapidly evolving global context. The book contains:

- Contributed chapters from international SCM thought leaders
- Reflections on specific issues across a variety of industries
- Implications of and tactics to deal with critical issues emerging from the SCM research agenda

Amongst the chapter contributors are LRN Chairman Professor Michael Browne and his predecessor Professor Martin Christopher, as well as many other active members of LRN. Professor Christopher launched the book and commended Edward Sweeney and the National

Institute for Transport and Logistics (NITL) for their contribution to the development of SCM in Ireland and further afield. Edward Sweeney commented: 'NITL is proud to have brought together a group of highly renowned experts from universities in Ireland, the UK, including Oxford, Cranfield and Heriot-Watt in Edinburgh to contribute to this initiative.'

Aimed squarely at SCM and logistics professionals, this book will also reach a wider market of students, researchers and policy makers.

Supply Chain Management and Logistics in a Volatile Global Environment, ISBN: 978-1-84218-177-5, is published by Blackhall Publishing in Dublin. Copies can be ordered from Blackhall Publishing, web site: www.blackhallpublishing.com/products/index.php?productID=386 Alternatively, through the CILT Webshop. Tel: 01536 740123. Email: webshop@ciltuk.org.uk

Dr. Marilyn Stone Memorial Prize

The European Logistics Users Providers and Enablers Group (ELUPEG) has awarded the 2009 Marilyn Stone Memorial Prize to Joanna Strauss, a postgraduate student from Heriot-Watt University, for her dissertation: *Information exchange: supply chain integration and improvement*. She carried out her research with Coca-Cola Enterprises. One of the aims of the research was to facilitate the development the company's relationship with key customer, Scottish and Newcastle.

Professor Alan Waller presented the award to Joanna Strauss at the ELUPEG group meeting in Brussels. The award is sponsored by OmPrompt.

Coming soon! KPI survey for the primary distribution sector

Following on from the success of previous sector specific key performance indicator (KPI) benchmarking reports, a brand-new benchmarking survey for the primary distribution sector is being published.

Operators in the primary distribution sector can use this benchmarking guide to identify real opportunities to maximise transport efficiency by reducing both their running costs and their environmental impact. KPIs provide a consistent basis for measuring transport efficiency across different fleets, comparing like with like.

This KPI survey, along with all Freight Best Practice publications, is completely free of charge, and will be available soon by calling the Freight Best Practice Hotline: 0845 877 0877. Or download from web site: www.freightbestpractice.org.uk

RESEARCH

CILT Seed-Corn Research Fund

Applications for 2010–11 Awards

The fund provides a small research grant on a seed-corn basis to enable supply chain/logistics and public transport and planning researchers based at UK and Republic of Ireland universities to explore issues of current, practical and academic interest. Preference will be given to projects that aim to investigate or improve on current practice. It is hoped that the grant will lead to the development of larger scale projects that will be able to attract further funding from other commercial and public sources.

The 2009-10 grants were awarded to: Dr Mark Gannon, University of Surrey, for: *A pilot study to assess the representation of political support in the business case for public transport capital projects in the UK*; Dr Chee Wong, University of Hull, for: *A study of the plastic recycling supply chain*.

A number of previous seed-corn projects can be downloaded from the CILT web site.

Researchers wishing to bid for the 2010–11 Seed-Corn Research Awards should submit proposals no later than Friday 30th April 2010 to: Sarah Skinns, Corby Office. Tel: 01536 740161. Email: sarah.skinns@ciltuk.org.uk

Application guidelines can be found on the CILT web site: www.ciltuk.org.uk/pages/seedcornfund or from Sarah Skinns.

Groundbreaking research into low-carbon shipping announced

A new research project to limit the environmental impact of carbon emissions from the world's shipping systems was announced, just ahead of the recent UN climate summit in Copenhagen.

It is hoped that the research project: *Low carbon shipping – a systems approach*, will help the shipping industry meet the recommended levels of emissions reduction required to avoid climate change. The project has received £1.7 million funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), part of the £530 million that EPSRC is investing in research into low-carbon technologies.

Some 90% of goods arrive in the UK by ship and there are estimates that suggest that shipping contributes 3.3% of manmade CO₂ emissions. Scientists are concerned that by 2050 shipping's share of global emissions could rise significantly – potentially up to 20–30% – and initiatives to prevent this rise are desperately needed.

Tristan Smith, naval architect, University College London, will be one of the research fellows playing a key role in the project. He said: 'It is really exciting to be part of such a unique and ambitious project involving scientists and engineers from around the globe. We're going to be analysing the potential of low-carbon technology and practices, and investigating how to implement them in existing and future ships and ports. We hope the findings from our research will be used to guide regulation development and to decrease carbon emissions produced by the world's shipping.'

The initial three-year project, which is due to start in January 2010, will see the formation of a multidisciplinary consortium made up of researchers from five universities and international industrial partners such as Lloyds Register, Shell and Rolls-Royce. The new consortium aims to identify the best ways shipping can respond to the challenge of a carbon-constrained future and reduce its CO₂ emissions.

Dave Delpy, Chief Executive, EPSRC, commented: 'This project is a fantastic

example of the long-term work UK scientists are doing to try and combat the effects of climate change over the next few decades. Supporting research projects such as these is vital if the UK is to meet its emissions reductions targets.'

Universities participating in the project (the names of the principal investigators are in brackets) are: University College London (Dr Richard Bucknall); Newcastle University (Professor John Mangan); University of Hull (Professor David Gibbs and Professor Chandra Lalwani); University of Strathclyde (Dr Osman Turan) and University of Plymouth (Dr John Dinwoodie).

Industry and government partners include: Shell, Lloyds Register, BMT, UK MoD, British Chamber of Shipping, Lloyds Register Fairplay, James Fisher, David MacBrayne Ltd, QinetiQ, BP, WWF, Atkins, UK Major Ports Group and Clarksons.

Further information on the project, including the full list of industrial partners, web site:
www.lowcarbonshipping.co.uk

New research project: meat and fish waste in the retail supply chain

New research led by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Envirowise is set to discover for the first time the amount of meat and fish waste, and the associated packaging, that is ending up as waste in the UK retail supply chain.

The team will also identify how to reduce this waste in order to realise cost savings and environmental benefits for the businesses participating. WRAP and Envirowise plan to develop detailed resource maps to identify the amount of food and packaging generated and where it occurs. Companies are being encouraged to take part to assist the researchers in gathering accurate and up-to-date information.

Data will be collected for poultry, beef, lamb and pork in the meat category and for 20 types of fish, including haddock and cockles, within the fish sector at all points along the wholesale and retail supply chain within the UK. The project will also

seek to detail the amount of water consumed and disposed of during processing, as well as the carbon impact of waste and its economic value.

WRAP and Envirowise hope the results will benefit participating businesses and the wider industry by identifying key areas where resources can be used more efficiently and waste can be prevented. This will include making recommendations to tackle hotspots and the development of good practice case studies.

The food and grocery supply chain expert IGD is undertaking the research on meat in partnership with MLCSL Consulting, which is a commercial subsidiary of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, the British Poultry Council and Cranfield University.

Logistics Research Centre (LRC), Heriot-Watt University

New research project: decarbonisation of the maritime supply chain

The LRC has recently been awarded a grant of £258,000 from the EPSRC for a two-year study of the opportunities for reducing carbon emissions from the global distribution of goods by deep-sea container. It will focus on the contribution that shippers can make to the decarbonisation of these international transport operations. This research, which will start in the spring of 2010, will build on work undertaken by the LRC in the four-year, six-university Green Logistics project, also funded by the EPSRC. Professor Alan McKinnon will be the principal investigator on the new project with co-investigator Dr Dong Wook-Song.

Road freight transport, energy and CO₂ emissions

Over the past few months, several outputs from the LRC's research in this field have been published. Alan McKinnon and Maja Piecyk published a critique of the UK Government's estimates of CO₂ emissions from road freight in *Energy Policy*, vol 37, 2009, pp 3,733–42. They also made a major contribution to the road and rail freight chapter in the recently published *International Energy Agency* report on: 'Transport, energy and CO₂' – Paris, 2009.

Another article by Maja Piecyk and Alan McKinnon summarising the results of a Delphi survey of 100 logistics specialists enquiring about business-as-usual trends in freight transport, logistics and environmental impacts to 2020 is currently awaiting publication at the *International Journal of Production Economics*. A related study has examined the changes that would have to be made to the UK road freight system to achieve a 75–80% cut in CO₂ emissions by 2050. This is discussed in a chapter of *Supply Chain Management and Logistics in a Volatile Global Environment* – see page 4. Professor McKinnon's presentation on 'European Logistics in 2050', delivered at the EU's Green Week conference in June 2009, is available on **web site:** <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/green-week/sources/file/day03/Pres-McKinnon.pdf>

Contribution to an international initiative on transport innovation

Professor McKinnon was invited by the International Transport Forum (ITF) to write a report on: *Innovation in road freight transport: achievements and opportunities*, and to give the keynote address at a seminar on the subject organised jointly by the ITF and Portuguese government in Lisbon in October 2009. Part of the OECD, the ITF is: 'a global platform and meeting place at the highest level for transport, logistics and mobility'. The seminar was attended by delegations from over 40 national governments.

Details of the seminar and a copy of Professor McKinnon's report are available on web site:
www.internationaltransportforum.org/Proceedings/Lisbon2009/index.html

World Economic Forum Summit, Dubai

Professor McKinnon is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Future of Transportation. This is one of 76 Global Agenda Councils that met in Dubai in November 2009 in the Summit on the Global Agenda. This summit brought together over 700 specialists from 90 countries to address some of the most pressing issues on the global agenda.

Further details, web site:
www.weforum.org/en/events/SummitontheGlobalAgenda2009/index.htm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2010

14th May

ELA Educator's Conference, Poznan

4th–6th June

9th EurOMA Doctoral Seminar, Porto, Portugal

www.euroma2010.org

6th–9th June

17th International EurOMA Conference, Porto, Portugal

www.euroma2010.org

10th–11th June

22nd NOFOMA Conference, University of Southern Denmark, Kilding, Denmark

www.nofoma.net/Default.aspx

16th–19th June

ELA Doctorate Workshop, St Nazaire

23rd–27th August

16th International Symposium on Inventories, Budapest

www.isir.hu

8th September

LRN PhD Workshop, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

www.lrn2010.org.uk

8th– 10th September

LRN Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

www.lrn2010.org.uk

JOIN THE LRN MAILBASE

The LRN Mailbase provides academics and practitioners with an international communication network. The service is intended as an information exchange and as such commercial advertising is not allowed. Messages that relate to research projects, publications, seminars, funding opportunities and job vacancies, etc, are acceptable. LRN information is also posted to Mailbase members. Messages should be kept as simple as possible and with the minimum of attachments.

To register, website: www.jiscmail.ac.uk Double click on L in the A–Z list, then scroll down to Logistics Research Network. Follow the joining instructions.

**You can place your own notice on the Mailbase or send it to Dr Tony Whiteing.
Email: A.E.Whiteing@its.leeds.ac.uk**

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