

Editorial Preface

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The second 2019 issue of *International Journal of Applied Logistics* contains three articles spanning humanitarian relief logistics applications, flow shop scheduling in the manufacturing environment, and improved project management through communication with stakeholders.

The first article focuses on one of the more challenging logistics problems that we face in contemporary society (Tatham & Houghton, 2011) – how do we rapidly marshal resources to address humanitarian relief efforts? The work builds on previous work (Baporikar & Shangheta, 2018) within Africa with data from Namibia. Using both qualitative and quantitative data sources, this research focuses on deficiencies in current preparation and proposes solutions and strategies that draw on established logistics principles to improve effectiveness of responses.

The second article addresses the challenge of scheduling within the flow shop environment (Ribas et al., 2017). Following from a review of previous approaches, a genetic algorithm (e.g., as used in past research such as Kumar & Singhal, 2013) is proposed drawing on the crossover method and inversion mutation operator. The results suggest that the algorithm has superior performance over established heuristics for blocking flow shops, particularly in the problems that require greater computational time.

The third article focuses on stakeholder management within the project environment and underscores the recognized importance of communication (Agrawal & Sharma, 2014). This type of research holds great potential, as we increasingly see larger logistics infrastructure projects with multiple stakeholder groups and in cases along the supply chain where high levels of stakeholder engagement are necessary (e.g., Rohner & Mettler, 2010). Through a comprehensive review of the literature, the article highlights critical success factors in stakeholder management and suggests a range of factors that managers should emphasize to improve outcomes.

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Journals such as the *International Journal of Applied Logistics* operate with a huge amount of community support. While our Editorial Review Board members and Associate Editors manage our day-to-day evaluation and assessment of articles, we also have a number of ad hoc reviewers that we would like to thank for their contribution.

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