

Call for Papers

Special Issue on “Small and Medium Manufacturing Enterprises and Asia’s Sustainable Economic Development” *International Journal of Production Economics*

Asia has become home to many of the world’s most dynamic markets, leading to unprecedented growth in manufacturing activities to meet the region’s escalating demand for goods and services. Manufacturing in Asia is mainly carried out by small and medium manufacturing enterprises (SMMEs), which have helped accelerate the economic growth and development of the region. Sustainable economic development (SED) refers to development efforts aiming to make improvement in economic welfare that take social implications and environmental protection into consideration. So, SED seeks to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for a community by creating jobs, retraining/upgrading workers, and growing incomes and the tax base. With the deployment of advanced manufacturing technologies, and information and communications technologies, and increased innovation, the manufacturing sector in Asia has become increasingly more efficient, resilient, and responsive in its operations management. However, increased production activities also mean complex operations issues faced by these SMMEs, with consequences for the environment, resource sustainability, societal well-being, and overall quality of life. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD) 2013 report, SMEs are the predominant form of enterprises, comprising approximately 99% of all firms. Furthermore, small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) in the manufacturing sector account for a large part of the world’s consumption of resources, air and water pollution, and generation of waste. Although the individual environmental footprints of small businesses may be small, the aggregate environmental damage they wreak in some sectors can exceed that of large companies. It is very crucial to get to grips with these phenomena to gain a better understanding of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of the operations of SMMEs in Asia.

SMEs are defined differently across countries, depending on the size of the domestic economy. For comparability across countries, we refer to OECD and define SMMEs as firms with a staff establishment of up to 249 persons with the following breakdown: micro (1 to 9), small (10 to 49), and medium (50-249). Indeed, Asian economies are at different stages of development and the roles played by Asia’s SMMEs in contributing to SED may differ. We hope to document in this special issue (SI) the various perspectives and experiences of the SMMEs across Asia in addressing the operations management/production economics issues they face, and the lessons learned.

The purpose of this SI is to publish high-quality original research and review papers that address emerging operations management/production economics issues arising in SMMEs in Asia, and ascertain their roles in the SED of the continent. We invite original research works that employ quantitative and/or qualitative methodologies, such as

empirical surveys, case studies, event studies, mathematical modeling, optimization, and simulation. This SI will adhere to *IJPE*'s standard of publishing cutting-edge, relevant, and rigorous scholarship in plugging the existing research gaps. As such, we welcome novel submissions that are neither published nor currently under review elsewhere. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Challenges to operations management in SMMEs in Asia
- Data management and analysis in SMMEs in Asia
- Determinants of facility location by SMMEs in Asia
- Environmental quality and resource sustainability management in SMMEs in Asia
- Green sourcing, green logistics, and green manufacturing by SMMEs in Asia
- Human resources management and productivity in SMMEs in Asia
- Innovation strategies and outcomes in SMMEs in Asia
- Logistics and supply chain management in SMMEs in Asia
- Manufacturing technology implementation and management in SMMEs in Asia
- New product development and performance of SMMEs in Asia
- Operations planning and management in SMMEs in Asia
- Organizational mindfulness and mindful organizing by SMMEs in Asia
- Outsourcing, licensing, and non-ownership business models by SMMEs in Asia
- Psychological ownership of operations and stakeholder commitment
- Quality and reliability management in SMMEs in Asia
- Relationship dynamics and stakeholder management in SMMEs in Asia
- Small business and consumer economics in SMMEs in Asia
- Sustainability practices and development in SMMEs in Asia

Manuscript preparation and submission

Before submission, authors should carefully read the journal's "Instructions for Authors". The review process will follow the journal's practice. Authors should submit an electronic copy of their complete manuscript via the manuscript electronic submission system (EES) by selecting the article type "Small and Medium Manufacturing Enterprises and Asia's Sustainable Economic Development" in the EES, according to the following timetable:

Manuscript due	31 August 2019
First-round review	28 February 2020
Final manuscript submissions to publisher	30 June 2020

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