In this day and age, air transport operations need to tackle the challenge of striving for environmental performance whereby a balance between geographic changes (e.g. changes in population distribution, changes of spatial connections, and changes of hub locations) and environmental protection is increasingly expected in the society. Business model innovation is now seen as a solution to many of the issues that we are facing. Furthermore, the world’s economic development is closely associated with the development of air transport and its spatial network. While the airline industry faces strong competition from other modes of transport, particularly, high speed rail, there is also the emergence of cooperation between airlines and high speed rail in some countries. The continued growth of integrated transport modes appears to be critical for economic development at the regional and national level.

The importance of innovation relating to sustainable air transport cannot be overstated.
This special issue is designed to advance research on business model innovation in the air transport industry. While this theme suggests many potential research topics, we particularly welcome papers addressing both theoretical and practical issues that create new perspectives or frameworks. Suitable topics include, but are not limited to:

- Airline dual brand strategies
- Airline cross border joint ventures
- Equity Partnerships in the airline industry
- Competition and cooperation between airlines and high speed rail
- Airline ancillary revenue
- Airport congestion
- Vertical integration between airlines and airports
- Low cost airlines including long haul operations
- The changing landscape of full service airlines
- Air transport and the environment

Manuscripts with a strong theoretical basis and a rigorous research methodology, be it empirical, a case study or modelling study, that make a significant contribution to the field, will be considered for publication.

The intention is to bring together selected papers presented at IFSPA 2015 in a special issue for a leading journal in transportation and logistics research. All papers will go through the JATM regular double-blind review process and follow the standard norms and processes that have been established by the journal.

\[ \text{IFSPA 2015} \]
\[ \text{HONG KONG} \]
\[ \text{29 NOV - 2 DEC 2015} \]
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The “International Forum on Shipping, Ports and Airports” (IFSPA) is an annual conference organised by the C. Y. Tung International Centre for Maritime Studies of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, aiming to invite international academies and practitioners to discuss and exchange views on issues related to global maritime and aviation economics, policy and management. The conference also serves as a good platform for networking and promoting academic-industry collaboration. IFSPA has experienced significant successes in the past few years attracting more than 700 participants from different countries and territories.

\[ \text{\textbf{\textbf{\textbf{KEY DATES}}}} \]

- Manuscript submission: 30 JUN 2015
- Review report: 30 SEP 2015
- Conference date: 29 NOV - 2 DEC 2015
- Revised paper submission: 31 DEC 2015

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