



Transport Policy

Call for Papers

Special Issue on “Innovative Solutions for Shipping Market Turmoil”

Guest Editors

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The weakened economy and trade have sent shipping freight rates plunging since the 2008 recession. However, the 2016 shipping market is destined to be remembered by the incredible turmoil. The current bulk shipping industry remained sluggish and fluctuant, and liner shipping industry has been in turmoil, companies continued to build ever-bigger ships to capture economies of scale despite existing overcapacity in the market. The recent collapse of the Korean-based Hanjin Shipping Line, as the world’s seventh-largest container carrier, has highlighted the turmoil in the maritime industry. Top container operators are busy rearranging their strategic alliances, partly as a result of a recent M&A wave in container shipping. To make a bad situation even worse, the world is also facing the slowdown in the Chinese economy, the consequences of the UK’s exit from the EU and uncertainty on the medium and longer term effects of US trade policy under President Trump. Soon, the newly approved regulation of global 0.5% sulphur cap for 2020 will further challenge the profitability of already distressed shipping companies.

The market turmoil has left shipping practitioners and researchers at a great concern about the industry’s future: What will the shipping industry do in response to the turmoil in the market? Shipping industry is increasingly characterized by its complexity, volatility and uncertainty. Innovation is a key strategy for responding to significantly changing circumstances. It is thus crucial for shipping managers to develop innovative solutions to address the contemporary issues and current challenges, and more importantly, to create sustainable and resilient shipping. These innovative solutions could be at strategic, tactic or operational levels and could manifest itself in the form of technological innovations, institutional reforms, process-driven innovations, or innovations in value creation and business models.

The aim of this issue is to inspire the researchers in transportation area to propose innovative solutions so as to shed a light on the industry agony. The beneficiaries include shipping carriers, government policy-makers, logistics operators, researchers and so on. The issue will make significant contributions to solutions addressing today’s challenges in the trough of the shipping market. The issue will carry revised and substantially extended versions of selected papers presented at the [International Forum on Shipping, Ports, and Airports \(IFSPA\) 2017](#), to be held in Hong Kong on 22-25 May 2017, but we also strongly encourage authors unable to participate in the conference to submit articles for this call.

Subject coverage

Suitable topics include, but not limited to:

- Economic analysis of shipping market
- Shipping business model innovation
- Vertical integration strategies of shipping lines (i.e. terminals, landside logistics, etc..)
- Shipping lines and data analytics/ IT solutions
- Pricing and revenue management in shipping
- Innovation in liner shipping service networks
- Strategic alliances, mergers and acquisitions
- Ship investment decision
- The economic implication of emerging maritime technology
- Innovative ship management and operational strategies
- Application of big data in shipping
- Transportation innovation networks
- Shipping enterprise reorganization
- Transition to a sustainable and resilient shipping company
- New growth drivers for the shipping industry
- Environmental focus of shipping sustainability

Notes for Prospective Authors

Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. (Conference papers may only be submitted if the paper has been completely re-written and if appropriate written permissions have been obtained from any copyright holders of the original paper). To be consistent with the focus of this journal, in-depth discussion regarding policy, managerial and practical implications is expected. All papers are refereed through a peer review process.

Submission method

For this special issue, authors are encouraged to use Elsevier's online multimedia tools and submit supplementary materials such as simulation code and data, video, and Audio Slides along with their manuscripts. All submissions will go through the journal's standard peer-review process.

For guidelines to prepare your manuscript and for manuscript submission, please visit http://www.evise.com/evise/faces/pages/navigation/NavController.jspx?JRNL_ACR=JTRP. When submitting your manuscript, please choose "SI: IFSPA 2017 Hong Kong" for "Article Type". This is to ensure that your submission will be considered for this special issue instead of being handled as a regular paper.

Important dates

IFSPA 2017 Conference date: 22 – 25 May 2017
Submission of manuscripts: 15 Aug 2017
Notification to authors: 31 Dec 2017
Final versions due: 1 Feb 2018