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Editor-in-chief's statement

The second issue of *The Journal of Management Sciences & Regional Development*, is dedicated to various topics which are relevant to the mission of the journal. Namely, to directly or indirectly support small and large scale management problems, particularly in countries belonging to this region.

The first paper, by M. Khouja, "A Supply Chain Inventory Model with Rework Cost and Variable Unit Production Times", was processed by M. Kaspi. Dr. Khouja, originally born in Syria and currently located at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, U.S.A., is a prolific researcher in logistic and operations management. The problem developed in his work is to determine the production and delivery interval of a component produced at the supplier side and shipped to an assembly facility. The cost solutions are derived under an approximation of the economic lot size model. The significance of this problem is due to a supply-chain situation relevant to commercial relations between overseas countries and the Mediterranean and Middle East countries.

The second paper, by D. Vekstein and A. Mehrez, "Technology policy for CIM diffusion to small firms in Israel", was processed by J. Karkazis. The main objective of this work is to analyze the technological strategy in eight case study firms looking at their technology and policy for manufacturing. This problem addressed the introduction of Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) in these firms and furthermore observed differences in their policies due to various internal and external reasons. The main implication of the study is attributed to government technological processes in manufacturing, particularly in small countries.

The third paper, by I. Or, M. Sevilir and E. Erkut, "An investigation of naval accident probabilities and causes in the Istanbul channel", processed by D. Vasiliou, deals with another problem common to many channels. These authors identified accident-causing factors and conditions (such as strong currents and winds, local traffic, channel width and bends, visibility) in the Istanbul channel. The regression analysis conducted by the authors is important as a case study. However, it is limited due to its sample size. The main aspects of the paper are due to the importance of the problem, rather than its

solution methods. Future research should increase the sample size to derive a more significant statistical relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variables.

The fourth paper, by A. Israeli, P. Albert and W. Acar, "Trading off time and money resources: an activity-based flexible approach to project management", processed by D. Braha, belongs to the domain of project management models. Its first objective is to analyze the influence of increased human resources on task completion. Following this, the presented approach is illustrated for a real software development project.

The fifth paper, by A. Drory, "Cross cultural differences and their implication on international collaboration and conflict", processed by A. Reichel, discusses the potential implication of cross cultural differences on culturally diverse work teams. The justification for introducing this theoretical paper in this issue is due to the main point of the work, which suggests that cultural diversity may become an important asset rather than an obstacle in the group's efforts to achieve its objectives.

The sixth paper, by J.Karkazis , "Global discretization in environmental impact assessment studies". A theoretical framework", processed by A.Mehrez, discusses the theoretical background regarding the introduction of discretization both at the spatial (modelling) as well as at the evaluation (algorithmic) level in long range environmental impact studies. In such studies, where an extremely large volume of meteorological and spatial data should be processed in a combinatorial-like fashion, introduction of appropriate discretizations, comparable with the accuracy required, could lead to a significant shrinkage of the solution time and consequently to a drastic reduction of the corresponding study cost.

Following journal policy, each paper has been reviewed by two referees and an acting associate editor, who are all experts in various dimensions of the relevant topics.