

Preface

On the initiative of Polish scientists from the Kraków scholarly centre (AGH University of Science and Technology and Cracow University of Technology) and German practitioners dealing with issues in logistics industry, services and transport, the Conference of Logistics Engineering was organised in November 1996 in Zakopane, Poland. Its primary purpose was to bridge a gap between theoreticians dealing with the issue of logistics from a technological (engineering) and economic perspective on the one hand, and specialists – practitioners, professionals working for companies in the areas of logistics and logistical support in the industry, as well as military, transport and other services (such as healthcare and utilities).

Strong interest in this subject has resulted in the Conference being repeatedly organised over the next eleven years. During those conferences, the concept of Total Logistic Management (analogous to Total Quality Management concepts) was proposed and developed as a methodology of a consistent and comprehensive treatment of issues related to the analysis, synthesis and management of logistic processes.

Through the participation in the discussions of representatives of four areas of science, namely the social sciences, economics, management and engineering, whose close cooperation is necessary for the implementation of efficient supply chains and networks in a variety of resources, the conferences have laid foundations the construction of a new scientific discipline – theory of logistics systems. One of the basic conditions for the development of this concept into a mature scientific theory is the active involvement of persons from outside the group of participants of the applied logistics conferences, and especially persons representing foreign scientific centres. Thus the idea originated of issuing a journal (initially a yearly, to become a quarterly) *Total Logistic Management* in English, of international circulation.

Placing in the reader's hands the first issue of this journal, I would like to express my hope that through the cooperation of numerous research centres it will be possible to achieve the established objective – the creation of a new scientific discipline: *theory of logistics systems*.

AGH Krakow,

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Lech Bukowski