Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Readers

We are very glad to issue the papers from the First International Conference, “Green Cities 2014 – Green Logistics for Greener Cities” which was held on 19-21 May 2014 in Szczecin, Poland. The conference focused on the presentation of scientific works and research results of international institutions on the topic of sustainable city logistics.

Development of sustainable, environmentally friendly urban freight transport systems has become a significant challenge for city authorities, logistics operators, carriers, purchasers as well as the manufacturers (especially vehicle producers) and other urban freight transport stakeholders. Due to fast growth of urban areas and the number of city dwellers as well as the increasing importance of e-commerce in regular business practices, it is important to find solutions, which will help reduce the negative impacts of transport systems on the cities environment. This one of the most important aspects that has helped to make our cities more friendly.

This issue includes papers that are focused on different topics relating to the development of sustainable urban freight transport and implementation of environmentally friendly solutions. The authors emphasized a lot of significant problems especially concerning the influence of urban freight transport on the environment including distribution in tourist and spa resorts as well as the safety problems in urban freight transport and the new trends in eco-logistics. They also propose many interesting and innovative solutions based on computerization of urban infrastructure and utilization of telematics systems in urban freight distribution, utilization of alternative delivering systems and implementation of urban freight transport systems based on different transport modes.

The “Green Cities 2014 – Green Logistics for Greener Cities” conference was most successful in promoting discussion concerning the most important areas in the field of city logistics and sustainable development. Moreover, it was first time so many important and well-known researchers at the area of city logistics taken the part in this kind of event in Poland.

This conference was the first of two conferences planned under the international project GRASS (GReeen And Sustainable freight transport Systems in cities). This project is funded by the Polish- Norwegian Research Programme, which is operated by the National Research and Development Centre. Funding for the project Grass was gained from a competitive grant and this project was chosen over many other competing ideas. The project Leader is the Maritime University of Szczecin, Poland and all activities are realized in collaboration with the Institute of Transport Economics of Oslo, Norway.

We would like to express our heartiest appreciation to all the authors of papers submitted to the conference for their contributions. Many thanks to the members of organising committee for their help and efforts in making this conference such an interesting and well-organized event. Special thanks for the members of scientific committee for their efforts and support, especially for their participation in the reviewing process.

All papers presented were accepted for publication after peer reviews.

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