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Call for papers

Embedding sustainability dynamics in supply chain relationship management and governance structures[☆]

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Sustainability has become an increasingly important part of doing business. There are governmental regulations, policies, and global market factors that require organizations to consider sustainability as an integral part of their business strategy. A core aspect of sustainability is the dynamic evolution of its meaning and methods of seeking to make progress in achieving it. While it is often feasible to improve environmental and social issues, it may be difficult to achieve economic goals at the same time. In some cases, trade-offs may have to be made by taking a more proactive and long-term approach, so that conflicts arising when seeking to obtain a true triple bottom line (TBL) can be reduced. In other cases, resolving the trade-offs may be nearly impossible. One opportunity to address this challenge is for enterprises to embark on their sustainability journey to collaborate with other organizations and stakeholders in their decision-making processes. This requires the establishment of new relationships and partnerships. In line with this, different governance mechanisms are also essential. This aspect is leading to a rapid introduction of sustainable practices by organizational stakeholders and to the development of research on the redefinition of relationships and governance for sustainability. Governance encompasses collective decisions made among the public, private and civil sectors. Therefore, it requires collaboration among these actors to address the challenges associated with local and global sustainability.

Practical adoption of relevant sustainability oriented organizational activities involving the social and governance areas requires new ways to expand and deepen the sustainability research field. Recently, a wide range of problems with organizations' behavior

have led to pressure for them to become more sustainable in all dimensions. Front-runner organizations have made efforts to green their suppliers, but often such efforts have not resulted in addressing climate change and related ecological disasters, working conditions, economic inequity, and related ethical aspects. All of these factors place persistent and dynamic pressures on organizations to improve their sustainability.

Organizations should do their best to plan for the long run, but unfortunately, most of them continue to focus only on the short term. Some companies are looking for ways to achieve competitive advantages within such dynamic environments while aiming to contribute to sustainability. Various governance systems, such as environmental and social standards, codes of conduct, performance guidelines, and legal actions are playing roles in mitigating conflicts of interests among stakeholders and in teaching how organizations can more effectively manage and adapt to the dynamic drivers for sustainability. However, it is unclear how and to what extent such governance inputs contribute to the integration of sustainability concerns into organizations and within and among nations.

The rapid evolution of these issues and forces requires a more dynamic understanding and comprehension of sustainability, beyond an organization's usual boundaries. The expanding boundaries need to include supply chains, stakeholder reactions to products and production systems and, the consumer's acceptance and feedback as inputs to the company's strategies for seeking to achieve more sustainable systems.

Previous Special Volumes of the Journal of Cleaner Production addressed the theme of green supply chain and sustainability issues. With this Call for Papers we seek to narrow the target, for which a much deeper understanding is necessary to analyze the various types of relationships, governance, and innovation in a world with dynamic sustainability forces.

Therefore, papers are invited on all aspects of dynamic capability management and development; by addressing how rapidly changing situations are influenced by the diversity of stakeholder responsibilities.

1. Topical areas

This Special Volume will address the topics that involve investigating sustainability from the perspective of multiple stakeholders in

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a dynamic environment. The editorial team welcomes submissions in the following areas:

2. Relationships

- **Competitor relationships** – What are the functional relationships of consortia of competitors and strategic partners who jointly work on innovative sustainability initiatives?
- **Supplier-customer relationships** – How do dyadic organizational relationships seek to change management practices, processes, and technologies to address sustainability pressures and to improve their performance?
- **Inter-sectoral relationships** – What are the inter-relationships of governments, NGOs, community institutions, professional organizations with corporations and organizations to address sustainability concerns?
- **Supplier-supplier relationships** – In order to aid customers in addressing environmental and social concerns, how can customers and suppliers develop collaborative relationships to more effectively address sustainability concerns?
- **Multi-tier supplier and sub-supplier relationships** – How can suppliers' suppliers be empowered to more effectively address joint sustainability concerns?
- **Multiple internal organizational relationships** – How can different corporate organizational divisions with different goals/objectives/markets address sustainability concerns with governmental agencies?
- **Relationships among informal actors** – How can bottom-up supply chains foster and support work within and through 'base-of-the-pyramid' systems?

3. Governance

- **Role of governance systems** – What dynamics are needed from the governance side of the equation for companies to more effectively address the challenges in the current and anticipated future economic, social, cultural, and technological contexts?
- **Sustainable governance indicators (SGI's)** – How can SGI's be developed and utilized to help companies more effectively manage within and among organizations?
- **Developing and implementing measures across supply chains** – How can 'governance for sustainability' measures be developed and implemented to function effectively along and across supply chains?
- **Roles of public-private participation** – What are the implications and lessons to be learned from sustainable preference evolution in seeking to achieve governance for sustainability?
- **Impact of motivation** – What is the impact of corporate motivation in co-working to implement governance for sustainability?
- **Role of voluntary participation** – What are the roles of corporations and governments in establishing and implementing voluntary participatory governance for sustainability?
- **Advanced technology based governance systems** – What are the roles of advanced technology-based governance systems such as e-governance on the journey to seeking to achieve sustainability?
- **Assessment tools and techniques** – What are experiences and lessons from developing and implementing new organizational models (decentralized, centralized, virtual, or offshore models) in seeking to achieve greater TBL integration over time?
- **Private governance initiatives** – What are experiences and lessons from the development and implementation of private

governance initiatives such as voluntary standards or codes of conduct in helping companies and governments to make the transition to post-fossil energy societal systems?

4. Tentative schedule for submission, review and publication

- Call for papers published: **15 September 2013**
- Deadline for submitting extended abstracts of approximately 500 words for potential papers to Dr. Kannan Govindan, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark. (E-mail: gov@sam.sdu.dk): **01 December 2013**
- The editorial team will provide feedback to authors of the extended abstracts by **01 January 2014**
- Deadline for authors to submit their peer-review ready, full papers for the Special Volume: **15 April 2014**
- Review/revision process completed by **01 December 2014**
- Publication of the Special Volume: **15 January 2015**

5. Contribution format and procedures

After submission of the abstracts and provision of feedback from the special volume editorial team, the selected authors will be invited to prepare and submit full, peer-review ready papers for potential publication in the special volume.

A wide range of paper formats are invited for consideration. Standard research papers should be 7000–8500 words. We also invite longer, comprehensive, integrative review articles of 10,500–13,000 words. In addition, the editorial team invites letters to the editor, debates and rebuttals, opinion pieces, notes from the field, and book/software reviews. These shorter contributions should be between 400 and 3000 words.

All authors should follow the 'Guide for Authors' provided on the "Journal of Cleaner Production" website: http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/30440/authorinstructions. To submit your article online, go to: <http://ees.elsevier.com/jclepro>, and when asked to indicate the "Article Type" in the submission process, please select "Special Volume: sustainability dynamics: supply chain".

Upon receipt of the completed documents, three to five independent reviews will be obtained to provide comprehensive peer reviews for each document. Upon receipt and acceptance of the author's revised and/or re-revised documents, the papers will be published in this Special Volume of the Journal of Cleaner Production.

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