

Note from the editor

The philosophy of the wisest man that ever existed, is mainly derived from introspection.

~ William Godwin
(English journalist, philosopher & novelist, 1756-1836)

The May 2010 edition continues a theme introduced in the May 2009 edition of the Journal. It is a theme of introspection by industrial engineering researchers, probing questions about the research undertaken in various fields of industrial engineering and in doing so finding trends for the profession. As the quote above states, introspection is a healthy approach since it feeds the wisdom of the collective profession. It is therefore significant that this edition has two feature articles, both commenting on IE research trends and perspectives.

The general section of this edition features articles on performance management for a multi-business company, a proposed business improvement model with integrated customer experience management, linking projects to business strategy through project portfolio management, the development of a project management methodology for the consulting engineering industry, project activity analysis without the network model, trade-off problems in project scheduling proposing a solution method, a model for quality management in a supply chain with a retailer and a manufacturer, planning empty container relocations under uncertainty, forecasting new product sales, a two-commodity perishable inventory system with bulk demand for one commodity and finally, the development of a more applied version of coherency for assessment of financial risk measures.

In the case study section of the Journal the articles featured include cases on quality performance in construction projects in the Kenyan electricity industry, maximizing profitability of a form fill and seal machine through optimization of the interruption intervals, hybrid supply chains in the Mexican auto industry, and finally, preventive maintenance using reliability-centered maintenance in a ferrochrome manufacturing company.

With regard to the articles included in this edition of the Journal, it is heartening to note that no fewer than five South African universities are featured in eleven articles. Furthermore, two of these articles are co-authored with foreign institutions - one in India and one in Zimbabwe. A further six articles in this edition are from non-South African authors and/or institutions. Having 17 articles in one edition of SAJIE is a record for the Journal. However, the editorial team is convinced that this will be sustained given the stream of articles submitted to the Journal to be considered for publication.

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