

## Preface

It is our pleasure to present the special issue of JART. In this issue (Volume 12, Issue 2), we selected fifteen papers which have gone through several rounds of review and revision, and represent a cross-section of research in the operations research and industrial engineering areas that touches upon technical and managerial issues. The preliminary versions of these papers have been presented in the third International Conference of Logistics, Informatics and Service Science (LISS 2013), which was jointly hosted by Beijing Jiaotong University, China and the University of Reading, UK in August 21 to 23, 2013 at Reading, UK.

Ever since the first meeting at Beijing (July 2011), LISS conferences have been a big scientific event for researchers and practitioners in IT, logistics and service science areas. More and more participants from outside China come and join LISS conference and its impacts are being enlarged. Since 2012, the organizers of LISS decided to bring out selected best papers presented at the conference, in full, as a special issue of respected journals. Publication of extended full papers from presentation at conference provides advantages for both authors and referees. For authors, the qualities of their works may be considerably improved through serious discussions with peers during the conference. For referees, it becomes much easier to review the submissions as they are generally invited from among the experts participating in the conference.

After getting the camera-ready paper for LISS2013, we started to select papers from the submissions. To provide equal opportunity to all authors of the invited and proofread papers of LISS2013, we made an announcement that a special issue of *Journal of Applied Research and Technology* will be included in the conference circulars. 63 submissions are invited to extend and revise to a full paper for *Journal of Applied Research and Technology* special issue and 15 papers have been finally accepted, representing an acceptance rate less than 24%.

The fifteen papers examine operations research and industrial engineering in different contexts, and they mainly apply analytical approaches to arrive at their findings. Moreover, they demonstrate the practical relevance of academic research in the related areas. We hope you will enjoy reading these papers, as much as we enjoyed reviewing, compiling and editing this special issue.

Guest editors:  
Prof. Honglu Liu  
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