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## The 5<sup>th</sup> National Logistics and Supply Chain Conference \*

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**Abstract.** The 5<sup>th</sup>National Logistics and Supply Chain Conference (ULTZK) held in Mersin Divan Hotel on the 26-28 May 2016. A number of academics, logistics service receiver company representatives (manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, etc.), logistics service provider company representatives (transport, logistics, storage, etc.), non-governmental organization representatives, and the relevant public institution and organization representatives participated to the conducted panels and sessions. In those sessions Logistics General Issues; Supply Chain Management; Logistics Costs; Urban Logistics; Mathematical Modelling; Maritime Logistics and Port Management; Green Logistics; Hazardous Substances Logistics; Logistics and Foreign Trade; Logistics Facility Site Selection; Logistics Current Issues; Air Logistics; Vehicle Routing; Logistics and Administrative Logistics Issues; and Logistic Village issues were covered. In broad terms, the conference was highly informative and provided significant out comes to its participants.

**Keywords.** Logistics, Logistics economy, Logistics management, Supply chain.

**JEL.** M10, M11, M19.

### Conference Notes

The 5<sup>th</sup>National Logistics and Supply Chain Conference (ULTZK), which was previously held in Konya, Aksaray, Trabzon and Gumushane, respectively, held in Mersin Divan Hotel on the 26-28 May 2016 with the co-organization of Toros University, Logistics Association (LODER), Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Mersin Chamber of Commerce. In parallel to its purpose of discussing at length and offer solutions for issues related to Logistics and Supply Chain Management, the main theme of the conference was determined as "Joint Transportation, Logistics in the Eastern Mediterranean". For this purpose, a number of academics, logistics service receiver company representatives (manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, etc.), logistics service provider company representatives (transport, logistics, storage, etc.), non-governmental organization representatives, and the relevant public institution and organization representatives participated to the conducted panels and sessions. The three-day conference program was consisted of first two-day panels and sessions and the third day Mersin city trip for participants.

The 5<sup>th</sup> ULTZK started on May 26, 2016 with the registration where postgraduate students of the conference organizing committee were at the forefront. Upon completion of the opening speeches, Cengiz Tavukçuoğlu, the

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founder of Tavukçuoğlu Training and Consulting Company, made an entertaining and educational presentation on Industry 4.0. In his speech, Tavukçuoğlu talked about the development phase of the logistics on the road to Industry 4.0 vision.

The second half of the first day of the Conference started with a panel entitled "Joint Transportation and Logistics in the Eastern Mediterranean". In this panel, faculty member of Galatasaray University and vice chairman of LODER Gülçin Büyüközkan Feyzioğlu, faculty member of Maltepe University and chairman of LODER Mehmet Tanyaş, Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers (UTİKAD) board member Koral Karşılıklı, and Railway Transport Association (DTD) board member Asım Süzen took the floor, respectively. Gülçin Büyüközkan mentioned the activities of LODER in the field of transport and the logistics potential of Eastern Mediterranean region, Mersin Province in particular. Mehmet Tanyaş described unimodal, multimodal and intermodal transport modes in detail and emphasized the differences between them. The panel was completed after the speech of Koral Karşılıklı on UTİKAD's logistics activities Eastern Mediterranean region, particularly in Mersin, and Asım Süzen's speech on DTD's contribution to Eastern Mediterranean logistics activities.

After the panel, 6 parallel sessions were conducted, where numerous academic studies covering issues Urban Logistics, Logistics Modelling and Simulation, Logistics and Ports in the Eastern Mediterranean, Supply Chain Management, Logistics Information Systems, and Logistics Human Resource Management were presented. Especially the studies "Determination of Urban Logistics Strategies", authored by Gülçin Büyüközkan Feyzioğlu and her student Fethullah Göçer, and "Analysis of the Ordering Process with Simulation Method: A Food Distribution Company Application", authored by Birdoğan Baki and his student Aylin Ofluoğlu gained recognition. After the gala dinner the first day of the conference was completed.

The second day of the conference started with the panel entitled "Logistics and Foreign Trade Potential of Eastern Mediterranean". In his speech, Okan University Dean of Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences Güner GÜRSOY gave general information on logistics and foreign trade issues and then mentioned the import and export importance of Eastern Mediterranean region, and especially Mersin, in terms of logistics potential. Afterwards, the panellist Central Mediterranean Customs and Trade Zone Manager Murat Kahraman took the floor. He gave information about the products that are subject to customs in the Mersin Customs Territory and emphasized the importance of customs territories in countries' foreign trade. Moreover, he presented information about the presence of the storage activities of Mersin customs zone and how they are carried out. Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry board member Ufuk Kaya tried to summarize the sense that Mersin lie at the heart of Turkey in terms of logistics activities by introducing statistics of logistics companies operating in Mersin. Then, Mersin International Port (MIP) Manager Savaş Çakmak discussed the leadership role of Mersin in maritime transport as being a seaport.

The first half of the second day of conference was completed with the panel and passed again to parallel sessions where a number of studies were presented. Successive 3 parallel sessions hold in and in those sessions Logistics General Issues; Supply Chain Management; Logistics Costs; Urban Logistics; Mathematical Modelling; Maritime Logistics and Port Management; Green Logistics; Hazardous Substances Logistics; Logistics and Foreign Trade; Logistics Facility Site Selection; Logistics Current Issues; Air Logistics; Vehicle Routing; Logistics and Administrative Logistics Issues; and Logistic Village issues were covered. Among those main issues, the study entitled as "Assessment of Critical

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Decisions in Production/Operations Management: A Case Study” investigated how a tea company that operates in Turkey makes decisions about issues such as; product design, capacity planning, site selection, plant arrangements, inventory and supply chain management. And, the study caught attention in terms of its scope.

After those sessions the meeting of the Heads of Logistics Departments and Programs in Turkish universities was hold on. In the meeting, it was decided to develop a common curriculum in order to obtain uniformity on compulsory courses for logistics programs at vocational schools and logistics departments at faculties. After then, in the final sitting, it was suggested to make the conference internationally participated as of ULTZK 2017. It was also decided that there will be awards for best papers as of ULTZK 2017. Following the release of statistics of the papers presented at the conference, it was announced that the 2017 conference will be co-organized by Akdeniz University and Antalya International University. The conference was completed with Mersin city trip on the third day.



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