



# IFPSM NEWSLETTER

## A letter from the President – Soeren Vammen

Dear Member,

I am writing to introduce myself as your new President of IFPSM. I am looking forward to working with all of you over the coming three years of my presidency.

IFPSM has grown and developed its role a lot over the last few years, under Paul Novak and Svante Axelsson, and I intend to build on the work they did. But things are changing fast in the Supply Chain world, and my vision is to grow IFPSM even faster in the time to come to reflect the speed of change in the industry. I want to see IFPSM as a 'must have' organisation for all associations in the supply chain and logistics field around the world, and for IFPSM to strongly contribute to the growth of all our members. To achieve that, IFPSM should do more things, more quickly than before and needs to listen to its members and their needs. Good communications are vital and we are exploring already ways to make IFPSM a real forum for discussion among ourselves and beyond to help us all work better.

Personally I believe that we need to change our modus of operation as institutes if we want to survive in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Basically we need to collaborate much more with each other – instead of being afraid of each other we should benefit from collaboration among institutes. All institutes collaborate extensively with third parties, but very little collaboration is going on between institutes – I would like to see that change and I'll do my best to facilitate this development.

There are lots of things going on during 2013, but the first event involving all the membership will be the meetings and the World Summit in Bangkok in September 2013 (18 – 21<sup>st</sup>), when I hope to meet all of you both individually and together. The World Summit is an excellent opportunity to meet representatives from other institutes, learn from each other, build trust and on a good day establish the foundation for a more collaborative future amongst the members of IFPSM. In the meantime, if you have any matters you wish to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sv@dilf.dk](mailto:sv@dilf.dk)

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Soeren Vammen', is located at the bottom left of the page.

## Getting ready for the World Summit 2013

Have you got the World Summit in your diary yet? It will be at the Siam Kempinski Hotel, Bangkok on 20 and 21 September with the theme **Developing your Association in Difficult Times**. This will be no ordinary conference – but a chance to develop your Association team – whether they are volunteers or paid staff. Our Keynote Speaker will be Horst Wiedmann, President of BME, and themes will include growing your membership, developing new educational offerings and using e-technology to add value for your members. 5 members from each of IFPSM member bodies can come for a token fee of US\$ 50 each (plus accommodation). Bring the people responsible for recruiting members, developing education and IT, and making your Association a successful player in a competitive world.

Attached to the World Summit will be meetings of the Council, Asia Pacific Region, Europe Region and the Board. For the list of dates, please go to the members area of [www.ifpsm.org](http://www.ifpsm.org) and put the dates in your diary.

## Ethics – results of the survey

Thank you to the 37 respondents (out of a possible 46) to IFPSM's survey on Ethics. IFPSM's members from all parts of the globe responded to our request for help and the results will help shape IFPSM's future work in this area. The headline results were as follows:

Issues of ethics are a big concern to two thirds of our of our members members, with the other third saying it was a concern but not a high priority. This is interesting given that the majority of respondents thought there was a strong legislative framework for business operations in their country. So legislation is not the complete answer to solving ethical issues.

Members are doing lots of work in this area. 60% include ethics in syllabuses and qualifications and nearly as many are running courses or training covering the issue. Magazine or web articles and setting a standard for members were also important. Many of you were also looking at developing new initiatives so it is clear that members of IFPSM are in the forefront of developments in ethical behaviour in the supply chain. There is a lot to learn from each other and there could well be opportunities to for associations to work together on developing your offering.

But most of you were not collecting data or quantifying the impact of good or bad ethical behaviour on business performance – although those that were, were thinking hard about the impact. This is important: making the case for ethical supply chain practice will be much easier when we can quantify the benefits to the 'bottom line'. That is the way to move it up the Boardroom agenda, or onto the desks of government ministers.

So what role should IFPSM play in raising ethical standard? Lots of good ideas (and every respondent thought IFPSM had a role to play and should lead by example). Out in front was the wish for us to gather best practice and provide guidance and sample documents to member organisations.

So just to show that we listen to our members that is precisely what the Board has decided to do. In the next few months I will compile a resource centre of materials for use by members. Some of it will be from you (sample codes and the like), some from government and world bodies and some from related industries. And to support and develop the work on ethics more widely, we are setting up a committee which will be chaired by our well known Board Member, Charlie Villasenor, to go beyond the resource centre to provide further support to all our members.

*And finally* – this survey was also a kind of experiment. I was pleased, even overwhelmed, by the response to this little survey. We have the kit now, and intend to use it for other surveys to find out your views on policy matters for the Federation. But how about you? If there are any simple themes where you would like to know what other members are doing, let me know, and we can circulate simple flash surveys to all our members and share the results with IFPSM members. I promise I won't flood your email inbox.

### IFPSM/IPSERA Best Paper Award

In March, IPSERA held its annual conference, this year in Nantes, France. IPSERA is a multi-disciplinary network of academics and practitioners dedicated to the development of knowledge concerning Purchasing and Supply Management. Each year, IFPSM sponsors an award for the best paper relevant to practitioners. The winners this year were Anne Touboulic & Helen Walker both of Cardiff University. Their theme was '*Sensemaking in sustainable supply chains*'.

The authors summarise their paper as follows: Sustainability is a topical issue for businesses but it remains a rather broad term with multiple definitions. In our research we try to understand how individuals in supply chains interpret *sustainability* and how these different views impact the advancement of the social and environmental agenda. We find that sustainability is a very political and emotional issue. Persistent tension and the inability to accommodate the plurality of views are the most important factors that slow down the successful achievement of sustainability goals. Understanding and taking into account the values and feelings held by individuals can help overcome resistance and define a more consistent approach to sustainability challenges. Stakeholders' engagement is a major concern for managers working to advance the social and environmental agenda of their companies. This work has implications for understanding the dynamics of change efforts for sustainability in supply chains.



## Notes from IFPSM Board

IFPSM's Board is responsible for the oversight of the management of IFPSM and meets twice each year. In March, the Board met in Frankfurt, where we were hosted very generously by BME at a city centre hotel. This was a busy all day meeting and the first for new President Soeren Vammen, who chaired the meeting. The full minutes of the meeting can be found on [www.ifpsm.org](http://www.ifpsm.org) in the Members Area under previous meetings. Look for Board Meeting, Frankfurt. But for those of you who do not want to full detail, major items were as follows:-

We discussed ethics and what role IFPSM has to play in promoting high ethical standards in the supply chain. As noted above, the discussion was shaped by your views from the survey, and the results and conclusions are summarised above.

There was also a detailed discussion of how IFPSM communicates, and more importantly, what it communicates to whom. It is vital that IFPSM supports and does not compete with its members, so there needs to be a clear focus on what IFPSM exists for. IFPSM's role is to support and provide resources to members, not to try and fulfil the role of professional body. So we plan to develop this 'newsletter' approach for our members – keeping you informed about what IFPSM is doing with, in future, articles from members and members of the Board.

The website needs a livelier more resource-based approach – we would like to see it become the place you want to go to for material about how you run your association. We will be working up plans to revitalise the site and make it a really useful resource for you in the months to come. Support for the e-zine is very low, and in many ways it does not fit within the objects of the organisation. Our role is not to communicate to your members on supply chain matters. I will be writing to everyone about this in the next few weeks, but very low numbers of members opening the e-zine and resultant poor advertising revenues mean that the e-zine will be closing down before the end of the year.

The next thing is to look at Social Media and to see how they can be harnessed to support IFPSM's networking role.

In shorter items the Board decided to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with ITC, so that we can work together on projects where appropriate. I know a number of you work with ITC, but we hope we may be able to assist in developing the skills base, particularly in regions where there are no professional associations to take the lead.

Operational matters take up quite a bit of time at Board meetings, of course, and the Annual Accounts for 2012 and the budget 2013 were important items. There is no doubt about it, just as times are hard for all of you, they are difficult for IFPSM as well, as we rely for more than three quarters of our income on membership subscriptions. The loss of three member organisations in 2012 tipped IFPSM into loss and we will need to work hard to make up the income. A focus on gaining new members and finding new sources of income are areas for concentration in 2013. We will be dipping into our reserves again with the World Summit being a significant cost. We will be making a small charge to all those attending – US\$ 50 to reduce slightly the subsidy it receives. But overall, IFPSM has solid reserves, and the Board takes its responsibilities for the financial stability of the organisation seriously.

## IFPSM Awards – Time to Start Thinking who you will nominate

It's that time of year again when you need to think about nominating entrants for the IFPSM awards. There are three awards: the Garner Thèmoïn Award, the Hans Ovelgönne Award and the Lewis E. Spangler Award. For more details of the criteria for each award, go to [www.ifpsm.org](http://www.ifpsm.org) and click on the awards tab at the top. It is great when we have lots of entries and winning one of these prestigious awards not only gives real recognition to supply professionals who have made a difference, it also gives you a chance to say thank you to members who have done great things for your organisation, and brings kudos to your organisation too. There will be a chance to present the award to the successful winners at the World Summit, or present them at an event in the winner's home country. The closing date for entries will be 31 July 2013 and although this is some way off, don't leave it too late. Early entries will be welcome!

## Summer School

There is still time to nominate postgraduate students to attend the Summer School in Salzburg. The closing date is 1 May. This is a really important school, bringing together young people from all over the world to discuss their research and to meet other supply chain professionals and academics in an informal atmosphere. For more details, contact Anita Kohegyi on [anita.kohegyi@logisztika.hu](mailto:anita.kohegyi@logisztika.hu). The event is a great way to support your academic partners and to help young students understand practitioner requirements and build international links.

April 2013

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