It is our privilege to introduce the MPER readers to this issue containing selected papers presented at the 7th International Conference on Engineering, Project, and Production Management (EPPM2016). The conference papers were expanded and enhanced based on the session chairs’ feedback as well as feedback from the reviewers and editors of MPER. The main goal of the conference was to present the achievements and exchange experience on theoretical and application-related issues of management and production engineering. The conference was a forum for summing up the state of art, introducing and promoting novel achievements and indicating the directions of further work and research. 115 outstanding specialists from 15 countries took part in that conference which has earned reputation for its scientific standard.

Presented works focused on the analysis of production processes as well as on linking scientific inquiry with the possibilities of applying the research results into business practice. Due to the diligent review process all presented papers were of high quality and covered broad areas of scientific and practical problems.

Two papers concern quality management focused on the improvement of enterprise functioning. Kriengsak Panuwatwanich and Thanh Tung Nguyen examine the relationship between organisational culture (OC) and Total Quality Management (TQM), and the influence of TQM implementation on organisational performance improvement within the context of the Vietnamese construction industry. Wiesław Urban – in turn – chooses the system of amoebas founded originally in the Japanese Kyocera as his research object. The study aims at identifying milestones of the transformation in a company organisational system to the Amoeba Management System (AMS).

In the next papers the authors propose tools for effective project management based on the current literature, their research and own experience. Cezary Orłowski, Artur Ziółkowski and Grzegorz Paciorkiewicz present the quantitative perspective of the agile transformation processes in IT organisations. The purpose of this paper is to adapt the estimation techniques in an IT organisation during transformation processes supporting Scrum which is one of Agile management approaches. The use of the introduced techniques supports the provider organisation (project managers) with data that may help understand and address challenges brought by dynamic changes in the business environment during software project development.

Daranee Pimchangthong and Veera Boonjing stress in their work that risk management is a key part of project management for any project size. The aim of their research was to explore organisational factors affecting IT project success and risk management practices influencing IT project success. The results show that the differences in organisational type affect IT project success in all aspects, while the differences in organisational size affect IT project success in the aspect of product performance and total aspects.

Two subsequent articles concern control and improvement of production processes. R.M. Chandima Ratnayake and Katarzyna Antosz propose the application of RBM (Risk Based Maintenance) and fuzzy logic to the identification of probability and consequences of potential failures whilst providing a way for prioritisation of maintenance actions based on the risk of possible failures. Yury Redutskiy presents the use of Markov model to account for device failures, technological incidents, continuous restorations and periodic maintenance for a given process and safety system configuration. This research is relevant to engineering departments and contractors, who specialize in planning and designing the technological solution.

The next paper included in this issue concerns the whole production system rather than only the production process. It encompasses problems related to the identification and presentation of relationships that exist in a production system. In their work Andrzej Wasiak and Olga Orynycz present the influence of the production system structure and technological process choices on the energy efficiency of biofuel production. Optimisation of supply chains is a crucial element of production processes. János Korponai, Ágota Bányaíné Tóth oraz Béla Illés are the authors of a paper on the relations between stock level and risk of shortages. As a result of the research, the introduction of the safety stock is the solution to cover the effects of the uncertain factors in the supply chain.
Another topical issue is covered in the paper by Alicja Gudanowska. The work is a comprehensive study of the current research trends in the field of technology management.

The two last papers were prepared by Authors from Thailand and Finland. Both concern ensuring competitive advantage through innovation capability in the Thai automotive industry.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the authors, reviewers and editors involved in the creation of this volume. We are confident that the wide array of questions raised and solutions proposed in this issue proves to be a rewarding and stimulating material for all MPER readers.

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