



Chapter X

Supply Chain Management in China

Wei Liu

Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China

Wu Dan

Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China

Chen Xiao

Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China

Abstract

China, a high-developing country, is facing reform in the 21st century. Almost every company in China is undergoing some form of transformation in order to reduce costs and to maximize profits. It is easy to understand the position of the supply chain in a Chinese company, because taking good control of a supply chain means acquiring quality materials at lower costs, so that the cost of unit products will be dramatically reduced, and maximum profits will be made. However, in China, this is easier said than done. This chapter discusses the current status of supply chain management (SCM), challenges and solutions to SCM critical issues, and the role of technology used in SCM in China.

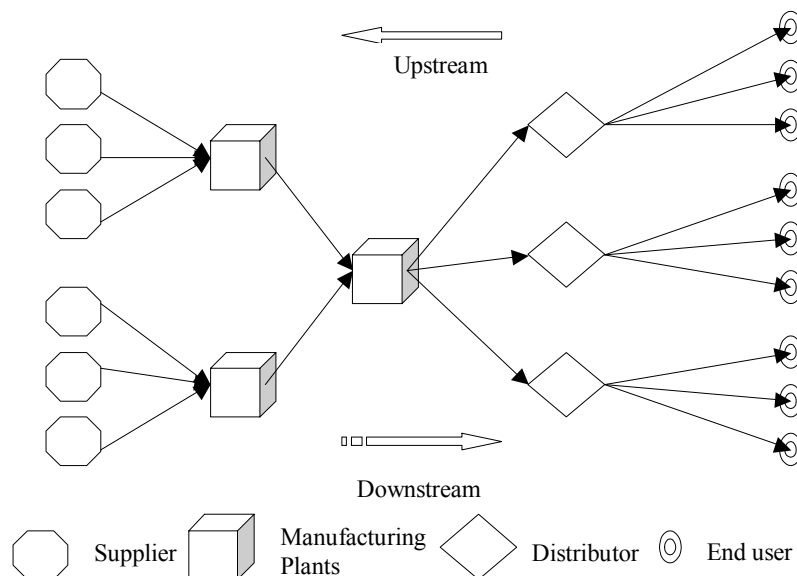
An Overview of SCM in China

Definition of Supply Chain Management

The theory behind the supply chain began to surface by the end of the 1980s, when global manufacturing was increasingly gaining popularity around the world. This is why supply chains were widely and mostly used in the manufacturing industry; before, it had evolved to become a new mode of management. Although the full potential of Supply Chain Management (SCM) had not been in place for very long, it is fair to say that SCM is being broadly accepted and highly regarded by many people in the industry. However, to some people, logistics and the supply chain are all the same. This misconception is gradually disintegrating due to the fact that we have begun to understand more about the supply chain for its close tie to e-commerce and to logistics. Meanwhile, SCM is becoming a worldwide issue. In China today, SCM is gradually being accepted and applied in logistics and in electronic commerce companies.

At present, because of the different applications of SCM, groups of organizations tend to have their own versions of the SCM definition; each is based on its own comprehension and experience. However, regardless of how different the terminology is or how the experience or the approach may vary; they all carry the fundamentals of the SCM at heart. In China, according to Tsinghua University, a modern management research center defines supply chain as the network that is made up of retailers, suppliers, manufacturers, and other business partners that reciprocally supply each other with raw materials,

Figure 1. A sample of supply chain



12 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/supply-chain-management-china/19241

Related Content

Research on Multi-Period Closed-Loop Supply Chain Network Equilibrium Based on Consumers' Preference for Products

Xiu Guoyi, Duan Caiquan, Zhang Yubin and Zhang Yunhui (2020). *International Journal of Information Systems and Supply Chain Management* (pp. 68-94).

www.irma-international.org/article/research-on-multi-period-closed-loop-supply-chain-network-equilibrium-based-on-consumers-preference-for-products/264457

A Study on RFID Adoption in the Grocery Retailing Industry of Thailand

Kwok H. Lau and Tartana Sirichoti (2012). *International Journal of Information Systems and Supply Chain Management* (pp. 58-77).

www.irma-international.org/article/study-rfid-adoption-grocery-retailing/68423

An Approach of Decision-Making Support Based on Collaborative Agents for Unexpected Rush Orders Management

El Habib Nfaoui, Omar El Beqqali, Yacine Ouzrout and Abdelaziz Bouras (2011). *Supply Chain Optimization, Management and Integration: Emerging Applications* (pp. 108-125).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/approach-decision-making-support-based/50450

Business Case Development Risks in On and Offshore IT Outsourcing: Unpacking the Theories

Anne C. Rouse (2013). *Supply Chain Management: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 137-153).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/business-case-development-risks-offshore/73333

Suppliers Selection in Volume Discount Environments in the Presence of Both Cardinal and Ordinal Data

Reza Farzipoor Saen (2009). *International Journal of Information Systems and Supply Chain Management* (pp. 69-81).

www.irma-international.org/article/suppliers-selection-discount-environments-presence/2517