



Please note:

A different country's translation
of our organization's name will
appear on each new Gazette:

**(English in honour of our
GMRG 2015 Australian hosts)**

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The President's Corner – Prakash Singh

Dear GMRG members!

As time gets closer to the GMRG meeting in Melbourne this year, I wish to provide more information that will assist you to get organised.

The GMRG meeting will be held in Melbourne Australia from 5th to 7th June. It will be hosted by the University of Melbourne at its main campus

in Parkville, which is about one kilometre from the CBD/Down-town area.

The program for the meeting is being developed. On the agenda will be discussions on the next round of data collection, future governance structure of GMRG, workshops on papers that can be developed from the GMRG dataset, etc.

You will have opportunities to form teams of international collaborators and plan analyses and paper writing projects!

For more information on the meeting please visit www.gmr.org

Prakash Singh

(More information on page 4)

The Past President's Corner – DaeSoo Kim

Dear GMRG colleagues

Greetings from Seoul as our 2015 GMRG meeting in Melbourne is approaching!

First of all, I'd like to thank Prakash Singh and Danny Samson for hosting and organizing the wonderful upcoming meeting. I thank Tom Kull for taking a full command of moving forward with our Survey VI.

Also I thank Clay Whybark, Artur Swierczek and the Executive Board for their continuous efforts to enhance the quality of our meeting and our organization.

At the meeting, besides all the great presentations and exciting discussions, we will work on crafting and solidifying our organization's future direction regarding quality research, academia-industry collaboration, funding, and other significant issues.

For our meeting to be more lucrative, I am currently working on getting some fund from Hyundai Motor Group. I have a strong belief that this meeting will provide us with new unprecedented memorable experiences.

I look forward to seeing you all in Melbourne and having lots of fun with you, along with wallabies, koalas, and little penguins.

DaeSoo



The Director's Corner – Clay Whybark

We're coming up on the GMRG meeting in Melbourne. Prakash Singh, our President Elect, and Danny Samson, a Past Present, are now working on arrangements. Some of the details are available in this edition of the Gazette. It promises to be a busy and fruitful meeting, with research issues to be described, approaches to addressing the research questions discussed, and opportunities to form research teams provided. Moreover, there will be occasions for having conversations between experienced researchers and those just starting with GMRG. In addition, there will be an Australia and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM) meeting in Melbourne and a Pan Pacific Business Association meeting in Vietnam just before GMRG. For those of you that have not had the pleasure of attending either of these organizations' meetings, I would suggest you try to make one of them if you can.

If you haven't been to Melbourne before, you are in for a treat. It is a delightful, friendly city with numerous attractions and great ethnic restaurants. Victoria Market is one of the worlds' finest markets for farm produce and much more. The Formula One track is home to the Australian Grand Prix. Allow yourself time to see koala, kangaroos, wombats, perhaps penguins, and other fauna of Australia. I'm sure it will be a time of personal, professional, and collegial growth.

Speaking of professional growth Tom Kull is working on the next version of the questionnaire. As some of you know, he polled a number of GMRG members to get their input on the development of the new survey. As he works through this, there will be other opportunities to contribute to the process. At the meeting there will be discussion of the principles that will drive the development of the questionnaire, the topics to be covered and the degree of modularization. Tom has provided some information her on the feedback and his progress to date. If you have suggestions, comments or ideas, just contact him directly.

I still get random references to research activities that are using GMRG data. Most of these researchers are someone that has been involved with GMRG through data collection, the annual meeting, and/or a dinner at the annual DSI meeting. But occasionally it is someone that is a colleague of someone that has collected data that has not been to one of our meetings. From the standpoint of one of our original goals, this means we have been successful. (The goal was to develop a global network of scholars that could create and use a common database to compare practices, evaluate outcomes, and explore issues in different countries worldwide.) This access to the data, however, has caused concern among some of our members. On the other hand, the Production and Operations Management Society (POM) has opened up an opportunity to share our data with an even broader audience. This would clearly open up opportunities for replication, something that our profession has not embraced.

Here is part of the email about the POM initiative. *"One of the initiatives being proposed is to make our members aware of all publicly and privately-available databases, their access protocol, and charges if any.*



The Director's Corner - *Cont'd*

The intent is to widen access to such databases and to form a community by linking individuals who could potentially partner for data-driven research. We plan to set up a website to post such information describing the databases and their access protocol. -----If there are any private databases that you think would be valuable to POM researchers, please indicate the procedure to gain access to it and restrictions if any. Such databases could include the databases that you have developed through surveys or other means and that you are willing to share with the community."

By providing one of our databases there is an opportunity for GMRG to get more exposure to the OM community. We did package the first database with our first book on GMRG research. But, there are arguments for and against joining the POM initiative. If you would like to weigh in on this issue, let me know at clay_whybark@unc.edu. This is clearly something that needs discussion and Board action.

Finally, I would like to raise with you my concern about the future of GMRG. We have discussed this often at the meetings and informally, but have not found a good solution. We have conducted experiments in developing a home for the organization. At Indiana University, the University of Melbourne, and the University of North Carolina we ran into issues around the financing the activity. At the moment, we are extremely informal, but this requires a key individual to carry us forward. Here are three suggestions for moving to more permanence.

1. We could have an individual agree to pick up the role of key person.
2. There may be someone whose school would be interested in housing us.
3. We might be able to merge into some other organization.

An example of a possible beneficial merger would be with the International Foundation of Production Research (IFPR), the organization that founded the International Journal of Production Research (IJPR). Every other year the IFPR sponsors the International Conference on Production Research that, like GMRG, meets at different locations all over the world. Some recent choices have been Prague, Czech Republic; Blacksburg, Virginia; Valparaiso, Chile; Stuttgart, Germany; Shanghai, China; and Iguas-su Falls, Brazil. Although their work tends to be more engineering and modeling oriented, the research is more individual, and their meetings more like the "traditional" set of tracks with paper presentations, it could be a good fit. Again, this requires discussion and eventually some board action. In the meantime, if you or your organization is interested, or you have suggestions, please let me know.



The GMRG Meeting, 5-7 June 2015, Melbourne, Australia

The GMRG meeting will be held in Melbourne Australia from 5th to 7th June. The meeting will be hosted by the University of Melbourne at its main campus in Parkville, which is about one kilometre from the CBD/Downtown area.

The program for the meeting is being developed. On the agenda will be discussions on the next round of data collection, future governance structure of GMRG, workshops on papers that can be developed from the GMRG dataset, etc. You will have opportunities to form teams of international collaborators and plan analyses and paper writing projects! As usual, there will be ample opportunities to socialise, engage, interact and network with other members. We also expect a good few local academics to attend.

As usual, there will be ample opportunities to socialise, engage, interact and network with other members. We also expect a good few local academics to attend. Melbourne was recently rated once again as the world's most liveable city!

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2014/08/daily-chart-13>

There is lots to take in, and if people want to, this will be an opportunity to go and see a unique type of football, on either the Friday or Saturday night, which is only played in Australia, and is wildly popular 'down-under'. <http://www.afl.com.au/>

There are many accommodation options available in Melbourne that are in close vicinity of the University of Melbourne. Some reasonably priced hotels that are only a few blocks from the main venue of the meeting are as follows:

- Rydges on Swanston:
<http://www.rydges.com/accommodation/melbourne-vic/swanston-melbourne/welcome/>
- Quest Clocktower on Lygon:
http://www.questapartments.com.au/Accommodation/59/Australia/Melbourne_CBD_Fringe/Quest_Clocktower_On_Lygon/Welcome.aspx
- Ibis on Therry Street:
<http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1564-ibis-melbourne-hotel-and-apartments/index.shtml>

The meeting will be preceded by the ANZAM Operations Management Symposium. We encourage GMRG members to attend this symposium. More details on this symposium can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/site/anzamsymposium2015/home>.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need more information. **IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE LET US KNOW!**

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting in June!

If you would like to attend the GMRG meeting please register. The registration form is available on the web at <http://www.gmr.org>



A note from Tom Kull on GMRG survey VI

Thank you to everyone that participated in completing the GMRG VI suggestion form. We received 24 responses between November 2014 and February 2015. Many interesting comments and useful suggestions were made. This information will help us greatly in designing the next survey instrument so that it reflects both the needs of our members and the mission of the group. Below I give some highlights of the results.

Before the annual meeting, I plan to begin organizing discussion sessions with various groups so to develop an overall structure and approach for creating and deploying the survey instrument. By the time we see each other in Melbourne; we hopefully will have some specific content ideas for the Core section as well as some ideas for the modules.

Until then, I am excited to be progressing forward on GMRG VI.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Kull

BRIEF SUMMARY OF GMRG VI ONLINE SUGGESTION FORM

1.1 How many GMRG survey rounds have you collected data for? 2.1 AVG

1.2 Which of the following past GMRG topics are your main research areas (Check all those that apply).

Topic (in descending popularity)	% Checked
Supply Chain Management	88%
Production Planning and Scheduling	42%
Sustainability	42%
Innovation	38%
Outsourcing	38%
General Strategy Core only	33%
Manuf. Planning and Control Info Systems	29%
Organizational Culture	29%
Purchasing	25%
Sales Forecasting	21%
Materials Management	21%
Shop Floor Control	8%



The below gives each numbered prompt from the online suggestion form along with my personal short summary of responses. Please note that much more depth and valuable input exist in the detail descriptions that we have.

2.1 Please describe one or two key strengths and/or weaknesses of past survey design processes.

SUMMARY: Modularity and competence of development team were common strengths, team homogeneity and sampling plan were common weaknesses.

2.2 Please describe one or two key strengths and/or weaknesses of the content in past surveys.

SUMMARY: Underlying structure/definitions/literature were common strengths; length/item wording/inconsistent usages of items were common weaknesses.

3.0 Traditionally, the primary purpose of the GMRG Survey was to publish in top journals. If you have an alternative, please state...

SUMMARY: Most agreed with this as a goal, yet relevance (particularly to the respondents) was also mentioned by some

4.1 How should the GMRG VI design committee decide on major topics (or modules)?

SUMMARY: Many suggested the members should decide via structured approach (e.g. delphi), but relevance to & differentiation within profession too

4.2 Please give one or two general suggestions for the GMRG VI survey design process.

SUMMARY: Various. Many said tight/frequent coordination within small/knowledgeable group. Get outside opinions, use past surveys

4.3 Please give one or two general suggestions for the GMRG VI survey content.

SUMMARY: Technology, design/innovation, supply chain, sustainability were common; quality of data over quantity; stay contemporary

6.0 Describe what criteria (beyond "based on literature") should be used to include/exclude a question

SUMMARY: Relevance and interest of respondents was common; opinion of experts and theoretical basis were also given

7.1 What is the ideal number of pages for the core section?

2.7 AVG

7.2 What is the ideal number of pages for each optional module?

2.1 AVG

7.3 How many optional modules should there be?

3.3 AVG, but some see no limit depending on interest

7.4 Should all sections (core and modules) be required, no optional modules (Y/N)?

5 Yes, 12 No

8.0 Would you like to volunteer for our survey / committee?

9 Yes, 10 No

Overall it took about 15 minutes to complete the form.



From Dennis Krumwiede, Board Member, Past President of the GMRG

I want update you all on the status of my son Sgt Matthew Krumwiede. So many of you have been so supportive in thoughts, prayers and gifts pertaining to my son. Matt is still at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX where he has been receiving excellent care at Brooke Army Medical Center. He is now in what is called med board process. If all goes well, he should be able to come home in around 6 to 8 months. For what he has gone through, I can say as of this letter, that for the condition he is in, he is doing well. He is seriously wrestling with his next process in life and he has many decisions to make. He is working extremely hard at trying to gain back independence. He is in the process of purchasing a pickup that can be modified with a lift to bring his wheel chair to the front driver's seat from the pickup box. The vehicle will be further modified to accommodate his disabilities.

Naturally, mom and I are quite pleased with his desire to move forward in life. As always, we continue to solicit your thoughts and prayers.

I would be remiss in not mentioning how appreciative we have been with all the people who have made a special effort to visit with him. Dr. Chwen Sheu made a special trip to see him, he has always been considered an uncle to our boys and it meant so much to Matt, not to mention the generosity both he and Dr. Yang have shown over the last two years.

I truly wish that I could attend the meeting in Australia but with teaching two summer classes and a potential short trip home by Matt during that time has prohibited me from attending. I wish all of you the best and look forward to an update with the hope of seeing all of you at DSI.

VISION STATEMENT:

The Global Manufacturing Research Group (GMRG) is a multi-national community of researchers dedicated to the study and improvement of manufacturing supply chains worldwide. Through systematic study and research throughout the world, the GMRG aims to improve manufacturing supply chains through the development of theory and dissemination of results. By sharing ideas, results, and concepts with research colleagues and manufacturing executives around the globe, the GMRG serves to strengthen the linkage between research and practice.

**WE ARE ON
THE WEB !**

Sponsored by the
College of Business,
Kansas State University
Chwen Sheu

GMRG.org

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