Global Supply Chains to Drive Global Economic Development

In a recent paper for the Fung Global Institute, Global Supply Chains: Why they Emerged, Why they Matter, and Where they are Going, Richard Stulen argues that supply chains drive the global economy. In order to understand globalization driven economic development, one needs to understand global supply chains. He predicts that the future of global supply chains and economic growth will be influenced by four key determinants: 1) improvements in coordination technology that lowers the cost of functional and geographical unbundling, 2) improvements in computer integrated manufacturing that shifts production toward greater skill, capital, and technology-intensive manufacturers, 3) narrowing of wage gaps that reduces the benefit of North-South arbitrage to nations like China, and 4) the price of oil that raises the cost of unbundling. Based on these predictions, Stulen predicts there will be more specialization and the larger wage gaps narrow. Following trade theory, nations’ trade will be more, not less, as the developing country economies (e.g., China) grow larger and more similar to Europe and the U.S. Early developers will move up the value chain and thereby encourage the next low-wage nation to step on to the development ladder following Kama’s Akamatsu’s “Bying process” International Development paradigm.

Logistics in Today’s Military

The United States Department of Defense has under its wings one of the largest logistics operations in the world. The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) is in charge of procuring supplies for the United States military operations both at home and abroad. The DLA manages all areas of the logistics operation of the DoD, interacting with both military units and civilian contractors. The DLA also is called on to respond to humanitarian relief missions undertaken by the U.S. The DLA logistics agency runs perhaps one of the largest distribution operations in the world.

SOLE - The International Society of Logisticians

The Gulf Coast Chapter (GSC) of SOLE - The International Society of Logisticians held its first chapter meeting on 25 October 2012 at the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies building on the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (Jackson County Campus). Twenty-five people attended, to include representatives from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC), University of Southern Mississippi (USM), Ingalls Shipbuilding, VT Halter Marine, and Chevron, and Acquisition Logistics Engineering.

High Schools - Intermodal Transportation Curriculum Development Workshop

The Center for Logistics, Trade, and Transportation (CLTT) at the University of Southern Mississippi hosted a two-day workshop on Intermodal Transportation Curriculum Development for Secondary Education. This workshop is part of a partnership among the Center for Logistics, Trade, and Transportation (CLTT) at the University of Southern Mississippi, the Research Curriculum Unit (RCU) at Mississippi State University, and the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) to increase awareness of intermodal transportation education among K-12 stakeholders.