

No Way Forward Without Logistics Heroes



Logistics heroes were also in action at the venue and showcased the performance capability of the logistics sector

➔ **35th International Supply Chain Conference** In the days from October 17 to 19, 2018, the logistics community celebrated 35 years of the International Supply Chain Conference, 40 years of BVL – and, to a certain extent, themselves. Right at the beginning of the conference, BVL President Robert Blackburn asked the attendees to shake hands and greet one another, saying “Good Morning, logistics heroes. There’s no way forward without you. It’s great to see you here!” When working smoothly, logistics is invisible, meaning a bit more self-confidence would not go amiss. Which is why Blackburn told his audience: “You’re heroes. Have the belief to feel like heroes, keep on doing good things, and talk about what you do!” And

there was ample opportunity to do just this at the 35th International Supply Chain Conference with the theme “Digitalization Meets Reality”. The annual event set a new record with 3,539 participants, and around 200 companies showcased their product and service portfolios in the exhibition area. This year’s German Award for Supply Chain Management went to Komsa, the Kommunikation Sachsen AG company. The Science Award for Supply Chain Management was presented to Dr.-Ing. Eva Klenk, who was delighted to receive the award together with her supervising institute, the Chair Materials Handling, Material Flow, Logistics at the Technical University of Munich, represented by Prof. Willibald A. Günthner. [more ...](#)

BVL International – Selected Events in 2019

Forum Automotive Logistics
February 5 – 6, 2019, Munich

Supply Chain Day
April 11, 2019, international

Forum Chemical Logistics
May 14 – 15, 2019, Dresden

41st Ordinary Members Meeting
June 4, 2019, Munich

EDITORIAL

Dear BVL Members,

as the festive season begins, it is with great excitement that we bring you the latest LOG. Letter International which is the last of what has been a celebrative year for the BVL. In this issue we look back at the association’s double anniversary year which marked 40 years of the BVL and saw the International Supply Chain Conference take place in Berlin for the thirty fifth year running. Highlights include a summary on the annual BVL conference as well as a comprehensive round-up of 2018 which saw Prof. Dianjun Fang become the first BVL International Chapter Chairperson to complete 10 years of service in his honorary role for the BVL Chapter China – Shanghai. BVL Representative for the Netherlands, Corine van der Sloot, answers our “Three questions for...”, and we have the latest reports from the BVL International Chairpersons and Representatives. Plus, find out how German cities will be supplied with goods in the year 2030, thanks to a joint BVL and Roland Berger study. The BVL Office would like to thank its members and community for making 2018 a special year and look forward to linking up again in 2019. Seasonal greetings and all the very best for the New Year.

from the BVL Office

Curtis Domberg & Katja Wiedemann
BVL Member Service



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Positive Mood and Top Speakers



Robert Blackburn
(3rd from left) experienced
his first conference as
BVL President

➡ **Programme** 3,539 attendees came together for the 35th International Supply Chain Conference from October 17 to 19, so that BVL not only celebrated a special anniversary conference but also welcomed a record number of participants to this annual event. For Robert Blackburn, this was his first conference as BVL President. With his opening “speech to the logistics heroes”, he also created a positive mood in the hall right at the outset, and this mood continued throughout the three days of the conference.

The programme featured many prominent speakers. Peter Altmaier, German Minister for

Economic Affairs and Energy, had his listeners on board from the outset with his down-to-earth manner. The first thing he did was to take off his jacket and roll up his sleeves. This picture perfectly suited the hands-on character of his speech. “I’m proud of the outstanding German logistics sector”, said Altmaier, drawing parallels between the work of the German government and the logistics industry. The final session on Friday was opened by former German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel with his comments on the “Challenges for Germany and Europe in a Difficult World”. He made one thing clear right away, saying: “It’s your

own fault that you invited a Social Democrat.” Alongside the classic presentation formats, there was also plenty of opportunity for interaction – during the new meet-up format, for example, where attendees had the chance to talk in a more informal setting with zero PowerPoint presentations about “Logistics Heroes”, “Leadership 4.0”, “Ladies in Logistics” and “Logistics Properties”. Many interested attendees also looked over the shoulders of the specialists at the 2nd BVL Hackathon, where the team from Locom came out on top.

[more ...](#)

Nationwide Image Campaign

➡ **Initiative** A new initiative called “Wirtschaftsmacher”, i.e. Business Enablers, showcased its image campaign “Logistikhelden”, which means Logistics heroes, planned for the next year for the first time at an info stand and two meet-ups at the 35th

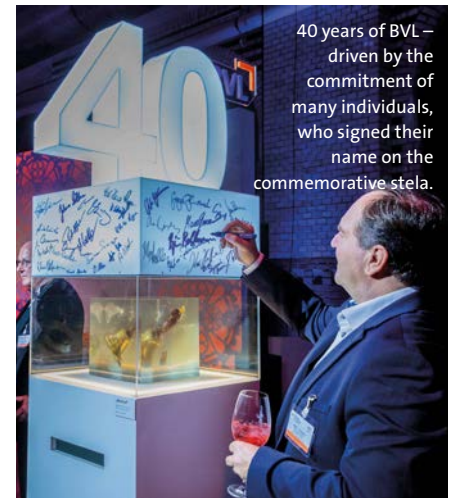
Supply Chain Conference. The initiative was called into being by the BVL “Image of Logistics” focus group, and “Wirtschaftsmacher” is the author of the image campaign. During the course of this campaign, associations, federations, institutes, logistics service providers and

companies in trade and industry will systematically pool their efforts to boost visibility and raise awareness levels for their activities.

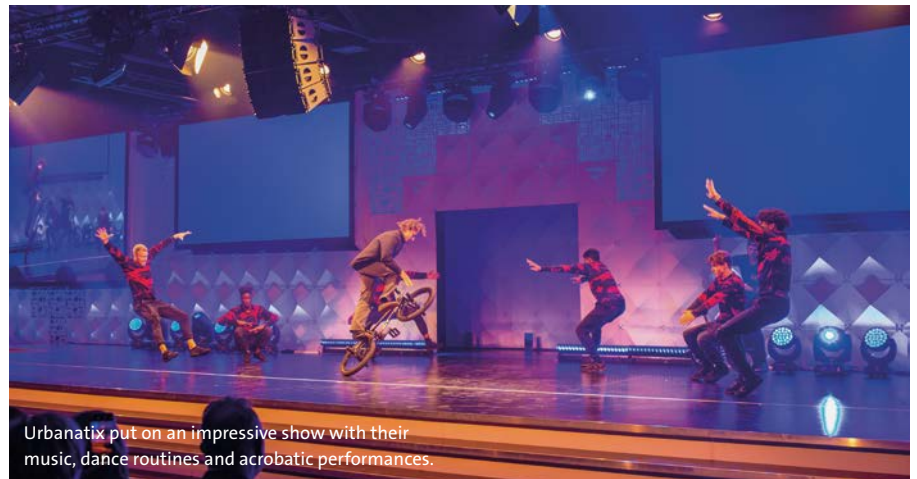
Gala Evening with Birthday Celebration

➔ **Anniversary** Berlin was not only the location for the 35th International Supply Chain Conference but also the venue for celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of BVL, and the Gala on the evening of day one provided the perfect setting. The founding fathers of BVL and particularly deserving longstanding members of the association had already been invited to a reception in the run-up to the Gala and had been presented with a certificate and medal. Thanks to the farsighted strategy of the founders and the constant commitment of all its members, BVL can now look back on several successful decades. The guests at the Gala were also able to take a multimedia journey through the history of the association, with social monitor stations being set up where they were able to digitally browse the story of BVL through the years. But attendees could also see pictures from the past “in analogue mode” on a photo wall. And they had the chance to add their own pictures to the collection and thereby themselves become part of the BVL story. The stage programme was opened with a speech by Dorothee Bär, Minister of State for Digitization, who welcomed the logistics community to the Gala. During her speech, the former Secretary of State Transport and Digital Infrastructure emphasised her

close connections to the world of logistics, telling attendees that she still feels a sense of belonging after being appointed to her new post and promising to continue to support the interests of the logistics sector. There was also room for more controversial topics at the Gala evening, where the Transatlantic relationship was discussed by guests of honour Frank Spoltari, President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany, and Robin S. Quinville, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Berlin, who spoke before the full conference and provided an unfiltered perspective on how the US views this relationship.



40 years of BVL – driven by the commitment of many individuals, who signed their name on the commemorative stela.



Urbanatix put on an impressive show with their music, dance routines and acrobatic performances.



Plenty of reason to celebrate – Komsa Kommunikation Sachsen AG was presented with the German Award for SCM 2018

Superheroes, Apps and Camera Teams

➡ **Multimedia conference** With their flowing capes, they were hard to miss for attendees at the 35th International Supply Chain Conference. Two “logistics superheroes” strolled through the venue, helping to render visible all the things that are normally hidden from view, namely the logistics behind the conference. They filled up the water glasses of the speakers and helped out at the counter, with security and at the exhibitors’ stands. The superheroes were a frequent and popular motif for attendees taking photos with their

mobile phones – and therefore performed an additional function, acting as an added attraction in the multimedia activities during the conference. In keeping with the conference theme, BVL uploaded the “real” content and stories from the conference to the “digital” media, and thousands of people followed the event content, ranging from photos and video interviews all the way through to the aforementioned superheroes, via the BVL website and the conference app as well as on, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn and

Twitter. On the latter platform, the hashtag #dlk18 was so popular on the Wednesday of the conference that it even made it onto the top five of Germany’s most popular hashtags, and #dlk18 posts succeeded in reaching over 400,000 people during the course of the week. As all this together with the countless user posts from the conference shows: it’s not only logistics but logistics managers themselves who are becoming increasingly digital.

Badge of Honour goes to China

➡ **Recognition for commitment** Ten years ago, on November 12, 2008, the first BVL Chapter was founded outside Germany – the China-Shanghai Chapter. Prof. Dianjun Fang from the Sino-German School for Postgraduate Studies at Tongji University has been part of the Chapter since the outset and has served as Chairperson since the day it was founded. At the Chairpersons and Representatives-Meeting at the 35th International Supply Chain Conference, Board member Dr.-Ing. Torsten Mallée from AEB GmbH and Uwe Peters, Member of the Executive Board, presented Fang with the BVL Badge of Honour for his outstanding service. This makes Fang the first international Chapter Chairperson to be honoured in this way and provides added incentive for him to continue to represent BVL successfully in the region in years to come.



Prof. Fang is the first international Chapter Chairperson to be honoured by the BVL badge of honour.

International Business Breakfasts

➡ **Berlin** In tradition of the International Supply Chain Conference, BVL staged two International Business Breakfast panels during the second and third days of this year’s conference in Berlin. The panel discussions were once again hosted and moderated by BVL Representative India and UAE, Christian Herzog (Nippon Express Deutschland GmbH), and Curtis Domberg (BVL Member Service International Relations), both of which were joined by expert BVL International officials on the panels, as well conference guests who also took part in the lively discussions. The “European Supply

Chains” panel, on 18th October, focussed on how European businesses may have to face up to potential future challenges such as the Brexit and coming to terms with the use of blockchain technology as well as how start-ups from the continent are seeking new opportunities in Southeast Asia, in particular, in China. BVL Chapter Poland Vice Chairperson, Prof. Paprocki (Warsaw School of Economics) joined BVL Representative for Italy, Enrico Nebuloni (Click Reply), and BVL Representative for the Netherlands, Corine van der Sloot (Inchainge B.V.) on the “European Supply Chains” panel.

The “Emerging Markets” panel on 19th October asked panellists if the other BRICS countries can keep up with China’s financial and technical developments and if China has the potential to one day overtake the US in the global economy, thanks to the “Made in China 2025” and “One Road, One Belt” initiatives. BVL Brazil Chapter Vice Chairperson, Bernd-Paul Koschate (4Flow), Singapore Chapter Chairperson, Andreas Radke (Bayer), and Russia Chapter Vice Chairperson, Kirill Vlasov (STS Logistics) gave their expert views in the “Emerging Markets” panel. Both panel groups also looked into how

Turkey's current political situation along with a weak currency could hinder the country's improvement. The International Business Breakfasts saw, as in previous years, great turn-outs, with both sessions helping networking processes amongst the approximately 30 conference participants amongst whom attending BVL Officials, foreign delegates, and conference exhibitors were also present. The BVL Office would once more like to thank all guests who attended the International Business Breakfast panel discussions and a special thanks to the BVL Chairpersons and Representatives who took the time to share their expert views on the panels as well as a big thanks once again to Christian Herzog for taking time to co-organise and moderate the discussions.

(From left to right)
 BVL International
 honorary officials
 Enrico Nebuloni,
 Wojciech Paprocki, and
 Corine van der Sloot



(From left to right)
 BVL International
 Chapter Chairpersons
 Bernd-Paul Koschate,
 Andres M. Radke, and
 Kirill Vlasov during the
 "Emerging Markets"
 Business Breakfast



Flows and tolls – Information on the Role of Logistics in International Trade

Service tool Working together with the "transport logistic trade fair, the BVL subsidiary BVL.digital GmbH founded in October interviewed more than 500 German and international logistics experts. "The answers confirm the public perception that protectionism and blanket punitive tariffs pose a threat to international trade and that sanctions are a tool that needs to be considered with great care on a case-to-case basis", says Dr. Christian Grotemeier, Managing Director of BVL.digital. It is worthy of note that the answers given by the survey respondents show that industry (3.2 out of 5 points) is affected more seriously than trading companies (2.6 out of 5 points) by barriers in the area of foreign trade. Moreover, there are differences between German and international companies in the assessment of the importance of markets. While German survey respondents say the most important trading relationships are those between the EU and the USA (3.4 out of 5 points), non-German companies believe that the trading relationships between China and the USA are the most significant (3.2 out of 5 points; EU-USA: 2.2 out of 5 points). The respondents agree that the solution to the emerging problems lies in logistics and supply chain management. 11 percent said they had already implemented the holistic optimisa-

tion of their supply chains, while 62 percent said they intend to do so in the near future. Alongside the results of the online survey, the English-language website also features hands-on examples and interviews with experts as well as interactive info graphics. An interactive

world map enables users to identify flows of goods and customs tariffs. The information can be filtered by country, product group, exports and imports – providing companies with access to an extremely attractive, fast and intuitive research tool.



Reports from the International Chapters and Representatives

2018 China Business Services Conference

➔ **China – Beijing** BVL Chapter China – Beijing Chairperson, Jean Wang, co-organised the “Supply Chain Globalization and Innovation” seminar which took place during the 2018 China Business Service Conference at the Beijing International Convention Centre on 1st August 2018. Roughly 2000 participants attended the conference and saw approximately 150 of those guests attend the seminar to hear Jean Wang deliver a keynote on “Opportunities & Challenges of Supply Chain Digitalization for Manufacturing in China”. Her speech explored and analysed opportunities and challenges in supply chain digitalization for manufacturing in China, as well as pointing out that the logistics sector is the most decisive factor in the success or failure of any industry. Jean Wang went on



2018 China Business Service Conference at the Beijing International Convention (photo Jean Wang)

to declare, there is no industry 4.0, without logistics 4.0. Thus, the current industry 4.0 age is actually the age of logistics 4.0. Jean Wang also used the opportunity to introduce the BVL during the seminar as a logistics

competence network for supply chain and logistics professionals which is looking to expand its network with both German companies in China and Chinese companies in Germany.

Meet and Greet November 2018



Andreas Radke (third from left) with guests at the Meet and Greet

➔ **Singapore** With the holiday season approaching fast, the BVL Chapter Singapore held another Meet and Greet as its last event for 2018 with a great turnout. To close the

year, some of Singapore's supply chain and logistics enthusiasts came together at Leopold to get to know each other. The discussion topics were as varied as the attendees.

There was high interest in the US-China trade war and its (very beneficial) impact on the South East Asian economies. The long-term outlook of Singapore as a business hub and, related, technology trends like blockchain and robotic process automation was of great interest as well. Finally, industrial media coverage was discussed with equal fascination and astonishment. As organisers and as BVL Chairpersons, we were delighted to see the great turnout and the BVL spirit in each conversation: different industries, different organisational levels, different backgrounds, and one high-content conversation. We're eagerly looking forward to 2019.

Report by Andreas Radke
 BVL Chapter Singapore Chairperson

Guests in Bremen

➔ **Network** During a stay in Germany, BVL Representative in South Africa, Günther Heyman (allsafe GmbH & Co. KG), paid a visit to BVL Head Office in Bremen on 1st October. During a meeting with Curtis Domberg (BVL Member Service, International Relations), Günther Heyman was able to discuss the previous Supply Chain Day event in Johannesburg back in April, as well possibilities for

next year's Supply Chain Day and potential regional meetings for the BVL community in South Africa.

[more ...](#)

Günther Heyman (left) together with Curtis Domberg



➔ **Poland** BVL Chapter Poland Vice Chairperson, Prof. Wojciech Paprocki (Warsaw School of Economics) also happened to pay a visit to the BVL Head Office in Bremen during his stay in Germany on 3rd December. After setting up a meeting with Prof. Thomas Wimmer (Chairman of the Executive Board) and Curtis Domberg of the BVL Head Office, Prof. Paprocki gave updates on plans for the upcoming annual joint BVL Chapter Poland Supply Chain Conference, scheduled to take place September 2019 in Poland. [more ...](#)

Prof. Paprocki (centre) together with Curtis Domberg and Prof. Wimmer during his visit to the BVL Office



Kick-off Meeting

➔ **The Netherlands** BVL Representative, Corine van der Sloot (Director International Sales Inchainge B.V.) got her first meeting as BVL Representative for the Netherlands on 29th November underway which saw 20 guests from Germany and the Netherlands attend the kick-off event held in De Bilt, close to Utrecht. The meeting was the first BVL Representative meeting for over two years in the country and it gave the BVL Dutch community an opportunity to exchange ideas on how companies in the Netherlands can reinforce each other in doing business with German companies. Corine van der Sloot became BVL Representative for the Netherlands back in December 2017 and attended this year's International Supply Chain Conference in Berlin for the first time as a BVL Representative, after having linked up with the BVL network previous occasions at the 33rd and 34th annual conferences. After registration, the guests received a warm reception to Inchainge's office at the Villa Orta, located in the Monastery Park of De Bilt, where the event was held. Corine van der Sloot introduced guests to the event's planned agenda, as well as a brief introduction to her professional résumé. BVL Office's Curtis Domberg (Member Service, International

Relations) attended the event and introduced the meeting's guests – who consisted of BVL members and non-members alike – to the BVL International Network which included an overview of its annual events and the set-up of its international network, with an emphasis of Chapter events both inside and outside of Germany. Guests were treated to overview of the host's products with Inchainge being predominantly known for its development of its Supply Chain Management and Supply Chain simulation tools "The Fresh Connection" and "The Cool Connection" where students and professionals in small teams can practice the planning and execution of real life supply chains in their simulative products giving its users a cross functional alignment experience. Corine van der Sloot explained how groups can test out their supply chain knowledge and compete against each other at the Global Student and Global Professional Challenges which are case completions on global scales. Inchainge also offered a sneak peek into their latest product, "The Blue Connection", which was presented during its Beta phase to King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and the Grand Duke of Luxembourg at an exhibition earlier in 2018. This new strategical simulator

gives its users a learning experience based around circular economy business models, which unlike traditional linear business models, focuses on the long term sustainability of products through reuse and recycle of resources for as long as possible. Ton Peters, Director Corporate Recruitment at The Talent Connection (a division of Inchainge B.V.) gave guests an insight as to how its company bridges the connection between international students with local and international supply chain companies. The Talent Connection assists multinational companies in finding international supply chain talents, at the same time offering students and graduates opportunities for internships and trainee programmes. Users of The Fresh Connection and Cool Connection tools, who agree to have their progress of the simulators monitored, can be assessed and hand-picked for possible recruitment from The Talent Connection's global talent pool. The various real-life business scenarios and application of solutions in cross functional teams, plus further assignments, ensures that the best users of Inchainge's simulators with top scores are more than capable of being accepted for internships and trainee programmes in manufacturing, retail, IT, consulting, and service providers. Before the event came to a close, guests were treated to a local "erwtensop" (pea soup) and were able to network and plan future collaboration and cooperation amongst each other and for each other. The BVL thanks all of the guests who made long journeys from both Germany and the Netherlands to attend the event. A special thanks to Corine van der Sloot and the Inchainge team for hosting the first BVL Netherlands meeting at the Villa Orta in De Bilt. [more ...](#)



Corine van der Sloot during her presentation at the Kick-off BVL Dutch Meeting

Reports from the International Chapters and Representatives

Three questions for ... Corine van der Sloot

BVL Representative The Netherlands

You have been a BVL member since 2016 and have since attended the last three International Supply Chain Conferences in Berlin. How does your company, Inchainge B.V., known for its products "The Fresh Connection" and "The Cool Connection", provide a learning experience for students and companies in supply chain management?

Inchainge is a spin-off of the well-known Dutch Supply Chain Management Consultancy Involvation. Hence, our business simulations on Supply Chain Management, Supply Chain Finance, and our new business simulation on Circular Strategy, The Blue Connection, are based on many years of extensive knowledge and experience in Supply Chain Management. We truly believe that going through an experience, will result in a better understanding. Our experiential learning tools represent a different approach to learning that puts participants at the heart of a lifelike simulation. As a team they will experience the impact of every decision they make, not just in their own functional 'silo' but across their business. At the same time their team is being benchmarked against others and it receives constant feedback. Our simulations focus on what we believe to be vital for every organization: alignment between a company's strategy and its execution, between functional departments and between theory and practice. All our simulations are web-based, and are easily accessible via a laptop, tablet or smartphone.

Your BVL event and kick-off meeting for the BVL community in the Netherlands looked into how Dutch companies can reinforce each other in doing business in Germany. How important is it for Dutch companies to seek out international cooperation in logistics and supply chain management?

Dutch companies historically always have had a strong international focus, and the logistics position of the Netherlands is ranked highest from a quality perspec-

BVL Representative for
the Netherlands



tive. Main drivers for this strong position are good physical infrastructure (road, rail, and waterway), favourable labour regulations (flexibility, night work), relatively close proximity to the market and favourable conditions concerning tax and import duties (VAT deferment, postponed accounting). The Netherlands are very competitive on total supply chain cost. The Dutch locations offer very competitive inbound and outbound costs, the same is true for Duisburg and the Belgian locations.

After a pretty successful first year as a BVL Representative, what can the Dutch BVL Community look forward to in 2019?

During my first year as a BVL Representative, I mainly worked on getting to know the current Dutch BVL organization, and structuring the communication channels, for which I have, for example, started a Dutch BVL LinkedIn group, in which already more than 25 members have been registered, but we are not there yet, because in total there are more than 70 BVL members in the Netherlands. We had the first and very successful BVL meeting on 29th November at our new Inchainge office near Utrecht, with an interesting group of participants, both from The Netherlands

and Germany. It was very good that you (Curtis Domberg from the BVL Office) were present as well, to tell more about the (international) BVL organization. For next year a BVL network meeting in the Port of Amsterdam will be on the program, where we will of course take a closer look at the Port of Amsterdam, but where we also want to pay more attention to doing business in Germany and with German companies. For this, I am already talking to one of the current Dutch members, with a lot of experience in this area, and two other Dutch organisations, with whom we could possibly organize something together. Another objective of mine, is to attract more Dutch companies to the annual international BVL congress in the coming years. This year I visited this congress for the third time, and I had the honour of being even more welcomed into the interesting BVL family.

Corine van der Sloot (Director International Sales, Inchainge B.V.), BVL Representative for the Netherlands since December 2017, was speaking to Curtis Domberg of the BVL Office after her kick-off meeting in De Bilt, Netherlands, in November 2018.

[more ...](#)

A Look Back at the BVL International Network in 2018

JANUARY

BVL Report of the Board

The beginning of the year saw the BVL Board, with new President Robert Blackburn at its helm, release the BVL 2017 Report of the Board, with last year's core theme "Think different – Act Digital" being the focal point. At the same time, "Digitalization Meets Reality", was the set into place as the main tone for 2018; a year which marks double anniversary for the BVL, as the association celebrates its 40th anniversary as well as staging its annual International Supply Chain Conference in Berlin for the thirty-fifth year running.

New BVL International Chapter Chairpersons and Representatives

BVL welcomed Yuan Zhou (Head of Finance, Processes, & HR, Continental Tires (China) Co., Ltd.) as new Chapter Hefei Vice Chairperson. BVL further extended its international network of BVL Representatives by welcoming Hidayat Hamidov (Managing Director, CAT International Azerbaijan LLC) as new and first BVL Representative of Azerbaijan, Günther Heyman (Market Research Advisor, allsafe GmbH & Co. KG), new BVL Representative for South Africa, and Enrico Nebuloni (Executive Partner, Click Reply), as the new and first BVL Representative of Italy. All of the new BVL Officials mentioned, took up their honorary roles in January 2018.

FEBRUARY

Forum Automotive Logistics

450 attendees came together at 2018's Forum Automotive Logistics – an annual BVL conference co-organised with the VDA (German Association of the Automotive Industry) – which took place at the Kap Europa conference venue in Frankfurt from 31st January to 1st February, with the main theme concentrating on "Opportunities generated by transparency – notice, understand, act". Core topics were automation, artificial intelligence and interconnection as well as virtual and augmented reality, and for the first time, the VDA Logistics Award went to two winners: Robert Bosch GmbH received the award for an interconnected intralogistics concept for production plants, whereas MAN Truck &

Bus AG was recognised for the development of "ConMa", an innovative and transport optimised software program for empties scheduling.

The "Fresh Connection" German National Final

BVL's DAV (German Foreign Trade and Commerce Academy) hosted "The Fresh Connection" German National Final on 17th February in Bremen during which 17 teams (incl. two DAV teams) of four students with each team member taking up roles in purchasing, production, sales, and logistics, by analysing and aligning the supply chains of a virtual juice producer, using "The Fresh Connection" simulator. The University of Magdeburg team won the final which took and qualified for the Global Supply Chain Challenge Final which took place in April, in the Netherlands. "The Fresh Connection" is a supply chain simulator developed by Inchainge B.V. in which teams of students can test and match their skills in SCM against others.

Pepperl + Fuchs' Global Distribution Centre in Singapore

On 6th February 2018, the BVL Singapore Chapter organised a "behind the scenes" visit to Pepperl + Fuchs' Global Distribution Centre in Singapore, with some of the company's logistics leaders offering interesting insights into their state-of-the-art warehouse which contains ASRS (automated storage and retrieval systems) on 60,000 locations as well as AGVs (automated guided vehicles) that transfer goods in sync with the ASRS.

Moscow International Logistics Forum

BVL Chapter Russia Chairperson, Mirco Nowak, together with Vice Chairperson, Kirill Vlasov, delivered speeches at the 2018 Moscow International Logistics Forum which attracted over 500 SCM professionals from Russia and over 12 different companies. Mirco Nowak presented BVL's study on "Trends and opportunities in logistics and supply chain management" showing real life examples from the German logistics sector, whereas Kirill Vlasov spoke about the use of intelligent warehouse systems, sharing some of his company's, STS Logistics, best practices in digitalization.

Chapter Turkey

Emre Tasci (General Manager, Jungheinrich Istif Makinalari San. ve Tic. Ltd. Sti), became the Vice Chairperson of the BVL Chapter Turkey joining Chairperson Arda Polat and BVL Representative Altay Onur, as local contacts for the country.

MARCH

Anhui Logistics Conference

BVL Chapter China – Hefei, in cooperation with the University of Hefei, held the 8th Anhui Logistics Conference in Hefei, on 31st March, which underwent the theme "smart logistics, green action" with in depth presentations and discussions on intelligent logistics and unmanned storage. Companies such as Green Finch Electric Cars as well as representatives of the Anhui Provincial Development and Reform Commission delivered key notes at the conference, with BVL Chapter China – Hefei Vice Chairperson, Prof. Li Daofang, taking part in the panel round on the challenges and solutions the logistics sector currently faces in the region.

New BVL Chairpersons and Representatives

The BVL welcomed the following new Chairpersons and Representatives to their new honorary roles in March: Prof. Dr. Yong Jin Kim (Inha University) became the new Chapter Korea – Seoul Vice Chairperson, Bernd-Paul Koschate (4flow) became new Chapter Brazil Vice Chairperson relocated from Michigan in the USA to Campinas in Brazil, and replacing him in Detroit as BVL Representative, Lennart Brüggemann (4flow Inc.).

APRIL

40 Years of BVL

April 2018 marked the 40th anniversary of the BVL after having been established on 18th April 1978. Today, the BVL has more than 11,000 members, ranging from experienced professionals to young talent and students. Over the past 40 years, many members have assisted on various BVL projects, bringing in new ideas and strategies, establishing contacts, organising thousands of regional events, and providing collegial support to

one another. The many past congresses and forums are a small part of a platform where networks have been extended and knowledge and best practice have been shared.

Modex

The BVL network in North America was especially active this spring, in particular during the 2018 Georgia Logistics Summit, which coincided with the 2018 Modex from 9th to 12th April, both of which attracted more than 30,000 visitors and over 900 exhibitors at the Georgia World Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia. BVL Office's Curtis Domberg joined the BVL Chapter US – Southeast and BVL Representatives from Atlanta and Toronto at a shared exhibition booth together with Joint Industry Associations Initiative which consisted of the BVL and logistics associations from the US such as APICS, CSCMP, ISM, and the Georgia Manufacturing Alliance, meaning that all organisations were able to work close together in establishing new links with fellow participants and exhibitors.

Porsche Experience Center Atlanta and BVL North America Meeting

The BVL Chapter US – Southeast organised a side-event to coincide with the MODEX exhibition, attracting 15 guests to a visit at the Porsche Experience Center, close by Atlanta Airport. Visitors were treated to a guided tour of the Porsche Museum – containing some of the first Porsche cars – as well as an introduction to the Porsche Consulting Group whose representatives showed guests how cloud solutions can be used to optimise supply chains as well as an overview of the company's consulting division. The BVL used the opportunity to host a BVL North America Meeting with all attending BVL Officials to discuss new projects such as the Great Lakes Case Competition: a case study organised by BVL Representatives of the same region Nico Weidel (Toronto), Muharrem Ergin (Chicago), and Lennart Brüggemann (Detroit), whose respective companies – Hudson Bay Company, mSE Solutions, and 4flow – contributed their own real-life cases for the competition. The first round of the competition previously saw 15 students from The University of Texas at Dallas take part in teams of five.

Supply Chain Sustainability Award

The corporate start-up Pakadoo, founded by the LGI Logistics Group International GmbH, won this year's Supply Chain Sustainability Award, handed out by the BVL and the BVL Österreich (Austria). The awards ceremony took place on 12th April as part of the 34th Logistics Dialogue in Vienna.

Supply Chain Day

Supply Chain Day, the BVL's annual open day of action initiative, took place for the eleventh time this year on 19th April and saw over 35,000 guests take part in more than 340 events worldwide which varied from factory and warehouse visits, air- and seaport terminal tours, and even the odd logistics Bar Camp. This year, events were spread beyond Germany, with over 20 countries taking part in Supply Chain Day, thanks to BVL's Chairpersons and Representatives in China, South Korea, Luxembourg, Russia, South Africa, and Turkey, as well as associated members from the ELA (European Logistics Associations) who assisted in organising the various events across the globe. Once again, the BVL Chapter Russia managed to organise and promote seven Supply Chain Day events for the second year running, including a visit to Sherrizone North, one of Moscow's most modern industrial zones.

CeMAT and 40th General Meeting

BVL conducted several expert forums at this year's CeMAT, the intralogistics world trade fair, from 23rd to 27th April in Hannover which included discussions chaired by representatives from the Fraunhofer IIS, AEB GmbH. Digitalization in warehouse logistics and start-ups in logistics were just some of the topics discussed in the forums. On the opening day of the CeMAT, BVL held its 40th

Robert Blackburn (right) and Prof. Thomas Wimmer (left) with committed BVL members who received the BVL Badge of Honour



General Meeting at the Logistics Solutions Forum which gave BVL President, Robert Blackburn, and Members of the Executive Board Prof. Thomas Wimmer, Uwe Peters, and Dr. Christian Grottemeier, the chance to present results from the BVL's network over the past year, and at the same time make new predictions for the year to come. Marking the occasion of its 40th anniversary, BVL awarded the Badge of Honour to those members who have made essential contributions to the association over the course of its history.

Chapter Russia

BVL welcomed Axel Hartmann (General Director, OOO Aksis Consulting), as new the Vice Chairperson of the BVL Chapter Russia as of April 2018.

MAY

Luxlait

The BVL Luxembourg Chapter organised a visit to the dairy manufacturer, Luxlait, whose dairy in Bissen, Luxembourg, has been in operation since 1894. Luxlait's own fleet of delivery vehicles follows the company's FIFO (First in First Out) principle, allowing its own drivers to deliver its freshest products to customers first from an automated refrigerated warehouse where the company's own and third-party products are stored at 6 degrees Celsius.

Transport Logistic China

As a trade fair partner of Messe München's transport logistic China, BVL organised and conducted two expert forums on best practice in Chinese-German supply chain management and best-practice examples in Industry 4.0 and Logistics 4.0 in Europe and China. BVL Chapter China – Beijing Chairperson, Jean Wang, and Prof. Thomas Wimmer (BVL's Chairman of the Executive Board) respectively chaired the discussion forums.

Workshop with Zyllem

BVL Chapter Singapore held a workshop at Zyllem, where participants were treated to a live demo of a delivery from back office activities to handling in the field showed off ease of use; everything from geotagging, successful delivery with signature and photograph to the different modes of delivery failures.

JUNE

Chapter Management Meeting

Around 100 voluntary BVL Officials came together in Wuppertal at the beginning of June for the BVL's annual Chapter Management Meeting, where voluntary members of the BVL network together with representatives of the BVL Office and Presidium Board come together to form specialised working groups which set out the association's development for its honorary network. These included digital products and services for members, the further development of regional group work, students' and young professionals' requirements, and the network's future direction in general. The Südwestfalen (South Westphalia) Regional Group Chapter played host to the 2018 Chapter Management Meeting.

International Scientific Symposium on Logistics

This year saw the biennial 9th ISSL (International Supply Symposium on Logistics) take place in Magdeburg during which over 100 guests from 6 different countries came together to promote the interdisciplinary and international exchange in order to encourage the development of totally new models to provide solutions. International key note speakers from various institutes and organisations presented their ideas on real-world issues that are of relevance to researchers and scientists as well as business companies views in front of an audience at the Fraunhofer IFF.

The 3rd Korean-German Logistics Conference



3rd Korean-Logistics Conference key-note speakers and special guests

The BVL Chapter Korea – Seoul's Korean-German Logistics Conference took place for the third year running on 18th June, 2018, and was once again co-organised by Media K& and The Korean Maritime Institute. Held under the title "The Way to Innovations for Future Logistics", the conference featured an array of both Korean and German expert

key-note speakers from leading universities, research institutes, and port authorities, including new BVL Korea – Seoul Chapter Vice Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Yong Jin Kim, and BVL Advisory Board Member, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Frank Straube.

Forum Chemical Logistics

The annual BVL Forum Chemical Logistics conference took place for the first time outside of Germany in Antwerp, Belgium, from 20th to 21st June. The conference gathered together 120 international participants from seven countries to what was an interesting forum in the impressive location of an old monastery before being accompanied on a boat trip through the Port of Antwerp.

JULY

Network Young Professionals

BVL President, Robert Blackburn, turned up as special guest at a Network Young Professionals event in Munich in mid-July. The event was co-organised by Steffen Overath, Team Leader at Jones Lang LaSalle SE, and BVL's Network Young Professional, Jan-Ferdinand Lühmann (Dachser SE). Guests were treated to Robert Blackburn's expert advice after he told them of his own experiences: stating that the key skills of a management executive are talent and a high level of intuition. He emphasised that you have to like people and be interested in them – and that being a good listener is just as important for successful managers.

Sino-German Logistics Forum

The BVL Chapter China – Shanghai and its Chairperson, Prof. Dianjun Fang, organised and hosted the 1st ALUROUT (Sino-German Alumni Network in logistics) Meeting, together with the CDHK of Tongji University and the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics China – Shanghai, for the Sino-German Logistics Forum. Amongst the speakers were Prof. Dianjun Fang and Fraunhofer's Prof. Michael Henke who discussed topics on trends and the use of state-of-the-art technologies in logistics giving insights into their fields of work and research and further strengthening the Chinese-German exchange of know-how and collaboration.

AUGUST

2018 China Business Service Conference

BVL Chapter China – Beijing Chairperson, Jean Wang, delivered a key note on "Opportunities & Challenges of Supply Chain Digitalization for Manufacturing in China" during the Supply Chain Globalization and Innovation seminar which took place during the 2018 China Business Service Conference at the Beijing International Convention Centre on 1st August 2018, a conference with roughly 2000 participants in attendance. During her speech, Jean Wang explored and analysed opportunities and challenges in supply chain digitalization for manufacturing in China, as well as pointing out that the logistics sector is the most decisive factor in the success or failure of any industry.

SEPTEMBER

Ritex Logistics New Logistics Centre Opening Ceremony



Curtis Domberg with distinguished guests at the Ritex logistics centre opening ceremony

BVL International Member and logistics service provider, PHU Ritex, opened its doors to 200 Polish and international guests who came together on 11th September for the grand opening of the company's new modern logistics centre in the Legnica Special Economic Zone, Poland. Ritex Group President, Waldemar Michalowski, along with local government officials, welcomed the attending guests and companies stating that the high importance of logistics for the region. BVL's Curtis Domberg delivered a speech and introducing guests to the BVL's structure as Ritex, in particular to the local Chapter in Poland. Ritex has been a BVL member since 2015, with its General Manager, Arkadiusz Zurek, becoming more involved with the BVL Chapter in Poland and even delivering a keynote at 2017's Advance Supply Chain Conference in Warsaw.

Centre of Innovation in Supply Chain Management

The BVL Chapter Singapore invited BVL members and followers to visit Republic Polytechnic's Centre of Innovation in Supply Chain Management (COISCM) on 19th September in Singapore. The guests, accompanied by BVL Chapter Singapore Chairperson, Andreas Radke, were able to gain a glimpse into the future of supply chain management during the visit. The COISCM helps Singapore based companies to develop and strengthen their supply chain and logistics capabilities through process innovation, technology enablement, and training. One example is The Productivity Lab: which demonstrates how supply chains are alike to every industry and are an inherent part of every business.

Advance Supply Chain Conference 2018

The BVL Chapter Poland staged the third Advance Supply Chain conference in co-operation with Eurologistics on 20th September, which saw over 200 participants including exhibitors and sponsors from more than 20 different companies attend. Eurologistics' editor-in-chief, Adam Blus opened and hosted the conference, encouraging guests to make the most of the conference by learning from the speakers' shared best practices. Curtis Domborg of the BVL Office in Bremen, Germany, welcomed guests on behalf of the BVL Chapter Poland whose Vice Chairperson, Prof. Wojciech Paprocki, put the relationship between man and machine into question by analysing how humans and robots in the industry will work together in the future.

Luxtram

A delegation of BVL and Cluster for Logistics members and followers joined the visit to public transport operator, Luxtram, on 20th September. After a welcoming and reception by BVL Chapter Luxembourg Chairperson, Malik Zeniti, and Luxtram Communication director, Françoise Frieden, the visitors were treated to a tour of the facilities, as well as an overview of the logistical challenges of transporting the trams over 1500 km from the manufacturer in Seville, to their final destination in Luxembourg.

Captain's Day 2018

The BVL Office invited newly elected German-speaking Regional and International Chapter Chairpersons to the biennial Captain's Day at the BVL Office in Bremen, with BVL Network

Young Professionals representatives also taking part for the very first time this year, on 21st September. BVL Office's Member of the Executive Board, Uwe Peters, and Head of Member Service, Katja Wiedemann, welcomed the honorary BVL guests to the BVL Office. Amongst this year's guests was BVL Chapter Luxembourg Vice Chairperson, Christian Wilhelm (CEO, Clear Logistics SARL), who was elected in 2017. After a visit to the various BVL Office departments, during which the respective colleagues briefly introduced themselves to the guests, the voluntary group took part in a workshop with emphasis on the various structures of BVL's voluntary network.

OCTOBER

35th International Supply Chain Conference

The International Supply Chain Conference took place during 17th to 19th October in Berlin and marked the conference's 35th anniversary. This year saw a record attendance of 3,539 participants attend the annual BVL conference, all of whom were hailed as "logistics heroes" by Robert Blackburn, during his opening speech, his first at the conference as President of the association. The programme featured many celebrity speakers, in particular Peter Altmaier, German Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, who in his speech compared the German government to the logistics industry. Former German Foreign Minister, Sigmar Gabriel, gave his views on the "Challenges for Germany and Europe in a Difficult World". This year's award for outstanding achievement Supply Chain Management went to Komsa (Kommunikation Sachsen AG) at the Gala on the conference's opening evening.



BVL President Robert Blackburn during the opening of the 35th International Supply Chain Conference

NOVEMBER

Meet and Greet November 2018

BVL Chapter Singapore held another Meet and Greet the Chairpersons at its last event for 2018 which saw a great turnout, as supply chain and logistics enthusiasts from Singapore came together to network with and to

know one another. The ongoing US-China trade war, due to its impact on South East Asian economies, proved to be one of the evening's top topics.

BVL Netherlands Kick-off Meeting

BVL Representative, Corine van der Sloot, got her first meeting as BVL Representative for the Netherlands on 29th November underway during which 20 guests from Germany and the Netherlands came together to attend the kick-off event in De Bilt. BVL members from both countries had the opportunity to exchange ideas such as how companies in the Netherlands can reinforce each other in doing business with German companies. BVL Office's Curtis Domborg (Member Service, International Relations) attended the event and introduced the meeting's guests to the BVL International network's structure. Guests were treated to an overview of the host's products: Inchainge is predominantly known for the development of its Supply Chain Management and Supply Chain Finance simulation tools, "The Fresh Connection" and "The Cool Connection", where students and professionals in small teams can practice the planning and execution of real life supply chains in their simulative products, gaining a cross functional alignment experience. The event also featured a look at The Talent Connection (a division of Inchainge B.V.), which bridges the link between international students with local and international supply chain companies as a talent pool.

DECEMBER

New Technologies and New Trends in Logistics

The BVL Chapter Turkey Chairpersons, Arda Polat, and Emre Tasci, together with the Türk-Alman Üniversitesi (Turkish-German University), organised a logistics seminar at the co-organiser's university in Istanbul on 14th December, focusing on new technologies and new trends in logistics. The BVL Chapter Turkey Chairpersons got the event underway by welcoming guests to the seminars which saw logistics representatives from Jungheinrich Işif Makinaları present the company's use of lithium ion technologies as well as the capabilities of automation in the logistics sector.

Urban Logistics in Germany in 2030

➔ **Study** How will German cities be supplied with goods in the year 2030? BVL and Roland Berger joined forces to address this question and polled logistics experts from industry, public administration and academia about what they see as the most important influencing factors, the comparative relevance of these factors and the probability that they will actually come into play. Under the heading “Stronger together: Keep the Wild West scenario at bay with cooperation”, the study outlines four possible future scenarios, which are designed to serve as hypotheses and to help management personnel to draw up specific recommendations for action in the here and now. The study also supplies food for thought and suggestions in this area. The goal is to actively promote constructive ideas and discussion of the long-term development of urban logistics. The study is now also avail-

able in English and can be downloaded from the BVL website. [more ...](#)

The study on urban logistics in 2030 is now also available in English



The Network Continues to Grow – New Members of BVL International

➔ **Membership** BVL welcomes the following new international corporate members for the second six months of 2018

- GMR Safety Inc. (Canada)
- RIKO d.o.o. (Slovenia)
- LLC International Forwarding Company (USA)
- Haier Washing Machine Co., Ltd. (China)
- Weland Solutions AB (Sweden)

Supply Chain Day Reveals the Hidden Champions

➔ **Day of action** Logistics is a genuine “hidden champion”: when it operates smoothly, it’s simply no longer visible. Logistics generally only gains some kind of traction in the public consciousness when something goes wrong somewhere. The skill shortage is a topic everyone’s talking about, and it also impacts the logistics sector. CEP providers even say that the shortage of drivers may mean that they will not be able to handle the many online orders in the run-up to Christmas. Traffic chaos in the city centres and particulate matter pollution are further issues that the public at large associates with logistics. But it is precisely the logistics experts with their innovative models who supply a wide range of ideas to address

these problems. Moreover, it’s always worth mentioning that logistics is the key growth driver in many regions, generating strong demand for employment. Excellent reasons, therefore, for companies to showcase their activities to the public at large and let people take a look behind the scenes. The next Supply Chain Day is scheduled for April 11, 2019! This is the day when companies have the opportunity to inform the public about their work and make the world of logistics more transparent. The supply-chain-day.com website for the 2019 day of action is now live, and organisers can upload details of their events and handle the registration process via the site.

[more ...](#)

New Partnership

➔ **Trade Logistics Congress** With immediate effect, BVL is now a partner of the Trade Logistics Congress Log in Cologne. The conference will take place for the 25th time on March 26 and 27, 2019 at the Koelnmesse trade fair venue with the theme “Making Trade Logistics Fit for Future”. The event will be moderated by Thomas Fell from GS1 Germany and Michael Gerling from the EHI Retail Institute as well as BVL’s Chairman of the Executive Board Prof. Thomas

Wimmer. The involvement of BVL is designed to bring general logistics and technical topics more to the fore. Speakers include Stefan Wohler from Edeka Minden-Hannover Stiftung & Co. KG and Prof. Michael ten Hompel from the Department of Materials Handling and Warehousing at TU Dortmund University. The programme is published in German language on the website of the 25th Trade Logistics Congress.

[more ...](#)

IMPRINT

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