

## “Courage and Encouragement” at the Heart of the Annual Conference in Berlin



### INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY CHAIN CONFERENCE

BVL has laid down an important marker. Its theme for the year “Inspire – Encourage – Act”, also the theme for this year’s International Supply Chain Conference, prompted debate and discussion across a broad front. “I am convinced that success depends on courage”, said Robert Blackburn, BVL President, in his opening address to the conference. “Courage is a combination of self-confidence and determination. It’s also a good antidote to self-fulfilling prophecies – particularly in times of economic difficulty.” The response to the mindset expressed in the BVL theme for 2019 was overwhelmingly positive. 3,207 attendees travelled to Berlin and filled the conference with life. The stage hosted some 150 speakers, and 190 companies

showcased their services and innovations in the exhibition area. Robert Blackburn sees logistics as a driver of digital change and a key to future success – and believes it can play a major part in shaping activities in many sectors of the economy. The conference presented a wide range of best practice cases, including the BMW Group’s “Logistics Next” transport and intralogistics project, which won the German Award for Supply Chain Management. The Science Award for SCM went to Dr.-Ing. Sascha Feldhorst for the work he completed at the Fraunhofer-Institute for Material Flow and Logistics IML under the supervision of Prof. Michael ten Hompel – work that led directly to the founding of a start-up. [more ...](#)

## BVL International – Selected Events in 2020

### Forum Automotive Logistics

February 5-6, 2020  
Leipzig

### Forum Spare Parts Logistics

April 2, 2020  
Nuremberg

### Supply Chain Day

April 16, 2020  
international

### 42nd Ordinary Members’ Meeting

April 20, 2020  
Hannover

## EDITORIAL

Dear BVL Members,

With what has been another busy year at BVL gradually coming to an end, we proudly present to you the last LOG.Letter International of 2019. This issue features coverage and highlights from this year’s International Supply Chain Conference which went by the theme “Inspire – Encourage – Act”. There is an exclusive commentary on BVL’s annual conference from the association’s network with a “Letter from ...” BVL Korea Representative, Sue Kim, and new BVL corporate member, Conrad Jeon of SONA VPC, shares his thoughts on the International Supply Chain Conference in our “Three questions for ...” after taking part in the event for the first time. As always, there are reports from BVL’s international network and all the latest news from the Chapters and Representatives, plus, we look back at 2019 with a comprehensive roundup of the association’s activities throughout the year. We here at the BVL Office, would like to express our thanks and show our deep appreciation to all BVL members and officials for making 2019 a special year at the association! We look forward to reaching out to you again in 2020!

Season’s greetings and  
best wishes for the New Year!



from the BVL Office  
Curtis Domberg &  
Katja Wiedemann

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## Facing the Future with Courage and Spirited Action

**KICK-OFF** “The global economy is in a difficult phase as a result of poor political decisions”, said Robert Blackburn, Chairman of the BVL Board, at the International Supply Chain Conference. Economic uncertainties driven by Brexit and trade conflicts are just some of the challenges that decision-makers in logistics and supply chain management must face with courage in the current environment. And so it was only fitting that “Inspire – Encourage – Act” was the theme of this year’s International Supply Chain Conference in Berlin from October 23 to 25. This event attracted 3,207 attendees who had the chance to hear from top speakers from the worlds of business, research and politics just how much logistics can achieve if it is backed up by inspiration and action. “I am

Alexander Birken, Robert Blackburn, Angela Titzrath and Prof. Michael ten Hompel (from r.) were the speakers at the opening session.



Moderation with a difference: poetry slammer Lars Ruppel led attendees through the opening session with a high level of verbal virtuosity.

new technologies is essential in order to keep pace with fast-moving developments. He further stressed the need for entrepreneurs to have the courage to invest in future-focused projects. Angela Titzrath, CEO of Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA), knows exactly what this means. HHLA is currently working together with the Fraunhofer Centre for Maritime Logistics and Services CML to explore the option of transporting containers by drone in the port of Hamburg. “We’re teaching containers to fly – and we’re serious”, said Titzrath, adding that “courage is what drives innovation”. What’s equally true, however, is that there’s

convinced that digitalization is one of the developments that generates major potential for our sector of the economy”, Blackburn emphasised in his opening address. “Logistics is in the process of becoming the central function for the future. It is the driver of digital change.” Alexander Birken, CEO of eCommerce giant Otto, began the series of presentations on day one of the conference with the words: “Courage is the key building block in the endeavour to shape digital change”. He said that this also means we must take leave of traditional methods that may have underpinned our success in the past and that implementing



“Inspire – Encourage – Act”: the theme was also brought to life internationally.



Celebrating themselves and celebrated by attendees – the winners of the German Award for SCM from BMW

no prospect of success without motivated and qualified employees. Christoph Pieper from automotive component supplier Winkelman emphasised that “we need to take our employees with us on the journey. We must encourage them to engage transformation processes, and we must take them seriously when they express their fears about how transformation will impact their jobs.” The only way to do this, said Birken, is through honest and open dialogue.

In total, around 150 speakers talked about a wide range of topics in the field of modern logistics during the three days of the conference. Alongside the current economic uncertainty, other core topics included new trends and technologies, the skill shortage and the challenge of organising the logistics of the future in a sustainable way.

[more ...](#)



## More Momentum for Lower Emissions

**URBAN LOGISTICS** Traffic in the inner city is becoming ever more congested. This is partly due to the growing amount of individual traffic, but the transportation of goods also accounts for a high percentage of total traffic volume. There is therefore a need for pioneering thinkers in logistics to explore solutions for improved traffic flow. During the conference, Dr. Christian Groteemeier from BVL.digital, the association's "innovation unit", presented the study entitled

"Accelerating Urban Logistics" and conducted in cooperation with the Here Technologies company. Logistics experts see the biggest problems of urban road transport as being transport performance as well as the lack of parking and stopping places for vehicles delivering goods. In this connection, experts say that optimising traffic flows also helps the cities to achieve their objectives in the field of urban environmental policy, as faster traffic flow means lower

emissions. The study is based on the analysis of 58 billion traffic data points and a survey of 400 logistics experts in Germany and is only available in German. The Federal Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Andreas Scheuer, also talked about the importance of mobility for a successful future: "The idea behind our innovation programme is to ensure that Germany remains best in class. To achieve this, we need to merge mobile and digital."

## International Relations

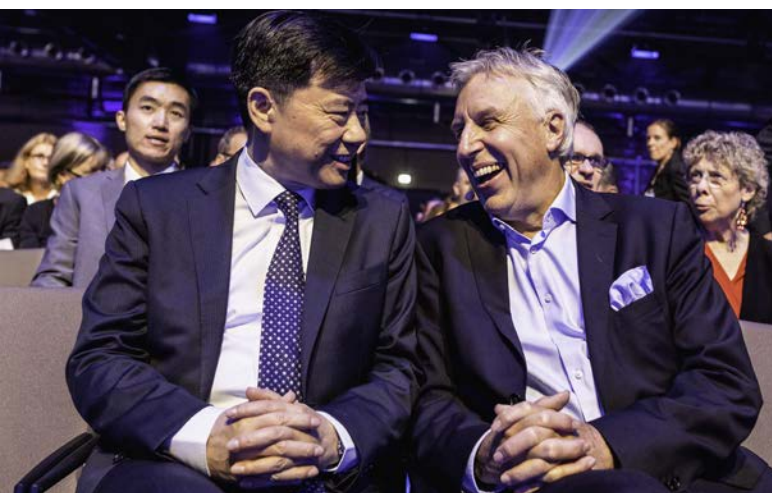
**GALA EVENING** The German Award for Supply Chain Management is presented every year during the festive programme at the end of day one of the conference – and this year went to the BMW Group.

The guest of honour at this evening event, His Excellency Wu Ken, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Federal Republic of Germany, spoke about the new intercontinental trade routes created by China's "Belt and Road Initiative". Wu Ken and Erich Staake, CEO of Duisburger Hafen AG, talked about the New Silk Road and the opportunities for global supply chains. "In times of growing risks, cross-regional cooperation is the best answer", Wu Ken emphasised. He said that this is exactly what the "Belt and Road Initiative" represents, namely an example of the world moving closer together. In their conversation, Wu Ken and Staake both underlined their desire to further their cooperation, and this signalled a ray of hope in what is currently a tense global trading environment.

**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS BREAKFASTS** The International Business Breakfasts provide a platform for lively panel discussions in which BVL officials come together with International Supply Chain Conference guests to discuss global issues that affect the global supply chain. BVL staged, as in previous years, two International Business Breakfasts during the second and third conference days. BVL Office's, Curtis Domberg (International Relations), hosted the two panel discussions which were started off with the "Disruption in Europe" session, on Thursday, 24th October. Amongst the first session's panellists were the following BVL experts: Azerbaijan Representative, Hidayat Hamidov (CAT International), Italy Representative, Enrico Nebuloni (REPLY S.p.A.), and Chapter Poland Vice Chairperson, Wojciech Paprocki (Warsaw School of Economics), who all joined Curtis Domberg to discuss impacts on the European supply chain. Potential post-Brexit trade in particular in the fresh, pharma, and automotive sectors, as well as if Europe is ready to decarbonize its supply chain and how European companies can make the most of modern technological opportunities were the first session's talking points.

The second session titled "China and the World" took place the morning after on Friday 25th October, and saw special guest, Ralf Jahncke (TransCare GmbH), get the discussion underway after delivering a brief background presentation on Germany's challenge with China's influence on the global economy. Jahncke then joined BVL panellists Chapter Singapore Vice Chairperson, Nicholas Bischoff (io-consultants Pte., Ltd.), Chapter China – Shanghai Vice Chairperson, Dominik Bühring (Miebach Consulting Shanghai), and Mongolia Representative, Tobias Schauf (Oskontor Consulting) to discuss their views together with host Curtis Domberg. This panel discussion looked into the opportunities for other countries caught up in the US-China trade tensions, as well as China's tech giants paving the way for new, young, and innovative Southeast Asian companies, and if the global supply chain should be sceptical or optimistic on the "Belt and Road" initiative. Once more, the BVL Office would like to thank all guests who attended the International Business Breakfast panel discussions and a special thanks to all of the BVL expert panellists and Ralf Jahncke for taking time to share their views in the discussions.

Conversation in a relaxed setting between the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Wu Ken, and Erich Staake



The International Business Breakfasts were moderated by Curtis Domberg in the re-designed BVL Lounge.

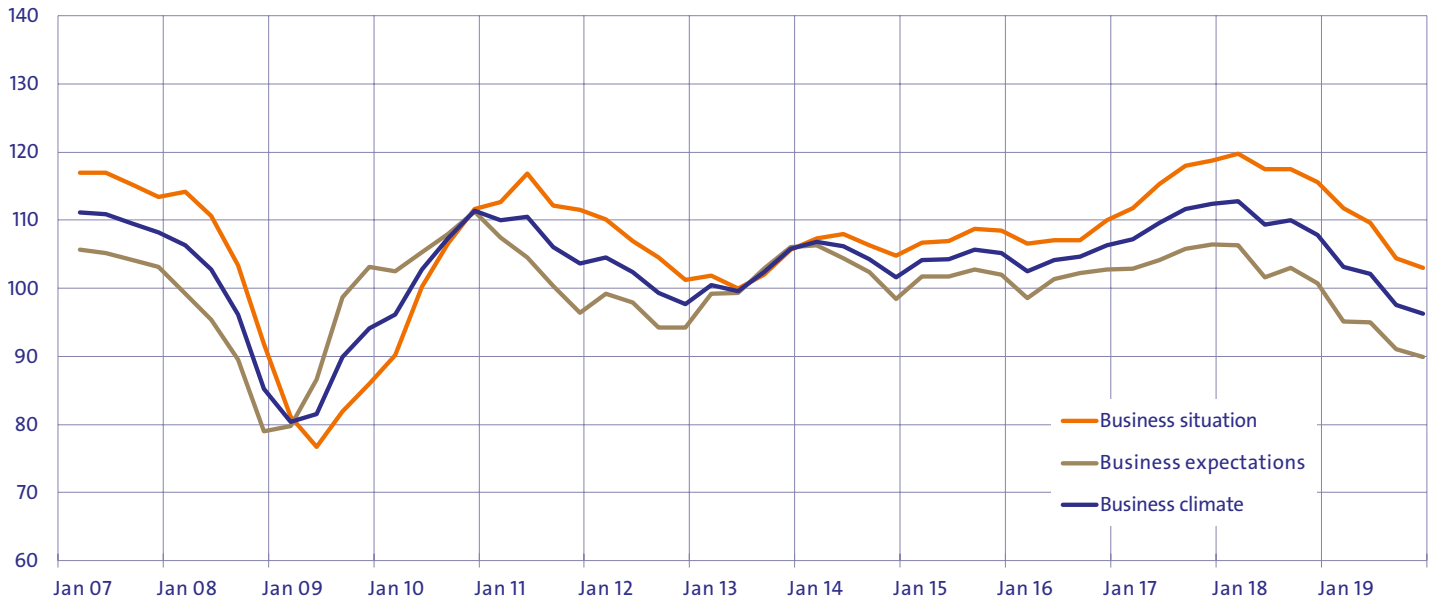


# Rays of light in the winter sky

Commentary by Robert Blackburn, BVL President

## LOGISTICS INDICATOR IN Q4 2019

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In the run-up to Christmas and the new year, we really ought to be spreading the good news. But not everything is rosy in December 2019, and it's important that we are realistic about the global economy and developments in the logistics sector. As shown in the November poll conducted by the Ifo Institute on behalf of BVL, the overall indicator for the business climate in the logistics sector is trending down for the seventh month in a row and has now fallen below the neutral 100 line for the first time since the turn of 2012/2013. What the poll also shows is a marked difference between the assessments of industry and trade on the one hand and the logistics service providers on the other.

An increasing number of logistics service providers say the volume of orders on books is down and that demand expectations for the next six months are only just in the expansive corridor. With regard to personnel recruitment plans and staffing levels, all the numbers suggest a less dynamic trend. While there were still plans for significant price increases back in the first quarter of the year, the mood in this regard is far more cautious as 2019 draws to a close.

Industry and trade report rising stock levels and have curtailed their personnel recruitment plans more noticeably than is the case among the providers of logistics services. At the same

time, assessments of the current business situation and expectations for the coming months are more positive among the users of logistics services than among the providers of these services, resulting in an overall business climate score of exactly 100 points – in other words, neither strongly positive nor strongly negative.

Forecasts for future business are bleaker than at this time last year. Given the many political and economic imponderables at the end of 2019, this comes as no surprise, as the threat of Brexit, smouldering trade conflicts, increasing protectionism and state interventions in economic activity will continue to have their effect as we enter the third decade of the 20th century.

All this means there are grounds for scepticism. The persisting burden of framework conditions that make life more difficult for economic actors can certainly promote pessimism, but there are also rays of hope. It is likely that construction, private consumption and investments in connection with climate targets will remain or become drivers of Germany's economic development. Various analysts believe that industrial production in Germany will stabilise during the course of 2020, and the labour market is still very robust, with companies still in search of skilled employees.

“Nachhaltig gestalten – Winning the Next Decade” is the BVL theme for 2020. This underlines how important it is that the – still – major potential of the logistics sector to shape the fortunes of the national economy is utilised in a responsible, far-sighted and sustainable manner, and in a way that reflects not only the economic but also the ecological and social responsibility of today's companies.

In this spirit, I urge you to remain courageous, active and inspired as we head for the new year!

[more ...](#)

## REPORTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

### Advanced Supply Chain 2019 and Euro-Trans 2019



Conference hosts and speakers (from left) Jan Brachman, Wojciech Paprocki, Thomas Wimmer, and Adam Blus

**WARSAW** Roughly 200 supply chain and logistics experts from Poland and Germany gathered together during September in Warsaw for two conferences in as many days both of which were co-organised by BVL Chapter Poland and local publisher EUROLOGISTICS in cooperation with the Warsaw School of Economics and the University of Szczecin. The Advanced Supply Chain Conference took place on the first day on 26th September at the Novotel Warsaw Airport Hotel under the theme “In pursuit of technology” and saw BVL Chapter Poland Chairpersons Jan Brachmann and Professor Wojciech Paprocki, together with EUROLOGISTICS’ Adam Blus, welcome local and international logistics and supply chain enthusiasts at the conference opening.

Overall, the Advanced Supply Chain Conference aim was to reflect everyday situations that supply chain managers face, looking into the demand of customer expectations as well as the need to optimise processes, and through digitalization, develop innovative solutions. In his presentation, Prof. Paprocki looked into how CO<sub>2</sub> reduction inline with industry and climate requirements is quickly becoming standard practice for logistics operations, and at the same time, stating that companies have the responsibility to implement new technology and business models that take the digitally native “Generation Z” for granted. BVL Chairman of the Executive Board, Professor Thomas Wimmer, also delivered a keynote during the opening conference, looking into whether

or not the “new world of warehouse processes”, such as automation, will create new opportunities, or end up in job reductions. Either way, Prof. Wimmer stressed the importance of finding a common language for the implementation of all systems to allow human and robotic interaction. Representatives from Raben, DHL, and Millano Group, also delivered keynotes at the Advanced Supply Chain 2019, looking into the use of digitalization for the supervision of logistics and supply chain processes. On the following day, 27th September, the first international research conference, Euro-Trans, took place at the Warsaw School of Economics, under the same joint cooperation. This time, under the theme “The Application of Artificial Intelligence in Mobility Systems and Supply Chains”, the Euro-Trans 2019 conference gave the opportunity to look at the available know-how on the development and implementation of AI (Artificial Intelligence) solutions. Academic staff from Polish and European universities and research institutions as well as industrial representatives came together to discuss the already gained and further achievable benefits in such business fields. Amongst the Euro-Trans guest speakers was BVL Board Member and BVL Scientific Advisory Board Chairman, Professor Kai Furmans (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology), who joined BVL Chapter Vice Chairperson Prof. Paprocki and fellow research specialists to debate applications such as machine learning at the conference.

[more ...](#)

### Chapter Brazil Event at Bosch

**SÃO PAULO** After the great success of the AGCO event back in March at Mogi das Cruzes, BVL Chapter Brazil got its second event for 2019 underway on 8th October with a visit to Bosch in Itupeva, São Paulo. The theme for the event co-organized by companies Bosch, Namoa Digital and 4flow was “Automation processes in Supply Chain Management” or in Portuguese Processos de automação em Supply Chain Management. The introduction of the half-day event was given by BVL Chapter Brazil Chairperson, Stephan Gruener, which was then followed by an insightful presentation by Patrick Dietz and Thiago Lisoni of Bosch on the Bosch Innovation Journey Logistics 4.0. It was during this presenta-



Guests at the BVL Chapter Brazil visit to Bosch



tion that guests were introduced to the use of camera technology within the Bosch spare parts warehouse leading to continuous improvement of KPIs and higher process transparency over the past years. The second main presentation of the day was held by Bernardo Madeira of Interchains, giving an overview of the topic of Blockchain and its impact on logistics processes in Brazil. Finally, Fernao Croce of 4flow gave a short presentation

on supply chain services provided by 4flow. After the presentations, the participants were offered a shop floor tour illustrating the on-site application of camera technology in the warehouse, wrapping up the event. The presentations were accompanied and followed by lively discussions amongst the 35 participants from national and international companies from different industries, making the event a fruitful opportunity

for networking with supply chain and logistics professionals. The BVL Chapter Brazil team is already looking forward to the next successful event in 2020.

Report by Clemens Sladek,  
Member of BVL Chapter Brazil

[more ...](#)

## On the Road with BVL Chapter Russia

**MOSCOW** After accompanying a Russian delegation with a busy schedule to the International Supply Chain Conference 2019 in Berlin, BVL Chapter Russia Chairperson, Mirco Nowak, actively took part in two conferences held in Moscow in October and November. The 2019 Riverport Expo, an expo dedicated to the development of inland water transport and industry investment, was held from 29th to 30th October at the Moscow Expocenter. During the expo's forums, participants discussed topical issues of strategic development of inland waterways of Russia, analysed the introduction of motor gas in water transport and the formation of transport corridors Europe-Asia, the formation of regulatory legal framework governing inland water transport and automation of traffic management on inland waterways. BVL Chairperson, Mirco Nowak, moderated the panel session "Linking multimodal transport corridors to strengthen Russia's role as a bridge

between Asia and Europe" and also gave a welcoming and greeting speech on behalf of BVL in the plenary session. The Transport Week 2019 took place from 19th to 21st November, and saw more than 12.000 participants take part. Hosted for the past twelve years by the Russian Ministry of Transport, the conference promotes an open discussion of the most pressing transport issues as well strengthening mutual understanding between government representatives and the business community. For the development of the North-South Transport Corridor and construction of a modern port on the Caspian Sea, Astrakhan presented itself in a special way with Governor Igor Babushkin. An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between PLC Caspy and GTLK in the presence of Russian Transport Minister Jewgeni Iwanowitsch Ditrich.

[more ...](#)

BVL Chapter Russia  
Chairperson Mirco  
Nowak moderating  
a panel at the 2019  
River Expo



## LETTER FROM ...

### Sue (Su Young) Kim, BVL Representative Korea



BVL Representative  
for Korea,  
Sue (Su Young) Kim

This year, I attended the International Supply Chain Conference for the third year running. Even as an honorary BVL Representative, I cannot say that it is always easy to plan and set aside time for the event, as well as to organise and accompany visiting delegation groups to Berlin. It has, however, proved to be worthwhile each time! The conference allows participants to get insights on recent trends, and at the same time, to be exposed to best practices in distinguished innovations in the relevant industries.

There were so many impressive keynotes delivered by many of the industry's respected experts (under this year's conference motto

"Inspire – Encourage – Act") which led to the more than 3,200 participants' – including all of the Korean delegates' – daily schedules being pretty busy and making it even more difficult in having to choose from the interesting topics among so many various and useful sessions. As BVL Representative for Korea, I always recommend Korean delegates to prepare their own schedules based on their interests and line of work by downloading the conference programme in advance which can be accessed online the BVL conference website.

As long as network members keep following BVL's news and updates, new trends can easily be identified before they are discussed at events

such as the International Supply Chain Conference in Berlin. Looking at it from this angle, this year's Korean delegates were for the most part well informed and able to make the most of one of the world's largest logistics conferences. All of the delegation members (including BVL Chairperson Won-Gyung Kook and myself) were very satisfied with our aims for the conference's platform such as widening both personal and business networks during the various get-togethers. For instance, at the reception for international delegation groups and participants and at the meetup for conference newcomers with BVL Board Members also encouraged guests visiting the conference for the first time to try as many new things as possible and to take as much as they can from keynote

speeches and theme sessions. Furthermore, getting motivated for the International Business Breakfast discussions proved easy thanks to their authentic and interactive atmosphere.

All of this and much more cannot be obtained just by reviewing the conference reports later on after it has taken place. Hence, it's better to attend in person at least once rather than to read an event report over and over. Of course, it is a time consuming conference which also requires a couple of extra days before and after the conference as well as some further financial commitment. However, I strongly think, "value has to be paid for" as it's absolutely up to the participants how they develop their business with new ideas created during and after the

event, and, how to make any agile actions against challenges in the midst of uncertainty. Hopefully, all existing and future BVL members worldwide can agree with me with this point.

Lastly, I'd like to conclude my letter with the quote which impressed audiences the most taken from a Fraunhofer IML presentation: "Don't be afraid to make a mistake on your way to innovation". This notion is now engraved in my mind and as long as we keep on going, rather than giving up halfway or going back to where we were before, we all can find our solution along the way.

[more ...](#)

## THREE QUESTIONS FOR ...

### BVL Corporate Member Conrad Jeon (Director, SONA VPC Korea Co., Ltd.)

*What was the main reason for you coming to the International Supply Chain Conference 2019?*

Conrad Jeon during his visit to International Supply Chain Conference 2019

**CONRAD JEON:** We oversee logistics operations for imported vehicles into Korea. At first, we were focusing on overseeing the physical inspections and delivery processes from the port to local Korean dealerships. Now, we are keen to learn about the global supply chain in the automotive sector as a whole, in order to fully partake in the understanding and practice of automotive logistics chains. As you know, the rapid evolution of modern vehicles leads and shapes the development of logistics as we go along. And so, I came here to relay what I have learned from the conference to my company, so that we can provide the proper service and added value for our customers



*What stood out the most at the conference?*

**CONRAD JEON:** I found the session entitled "Breaking down borders – production and logistics" which was moderated by Professor Straube most appealing. The two International Business Breakfast sessions also proved useful.

*Lastly, what have you learned from BVL and its conference?*

**CONRAD JEON:** First of all, the International Supply Chain Conference's motto, "Inspire –

Encourage – Act", left me with a memorable and lasting impression. I am inspired by BVL's participation in the current innovation of our industry. Since we cannot escape from the increasingly digitalizing world, I believe that we cannot just implement digital features to our business as a peripheral thought, but instead we must undertake systemic and structural changes to our business model as a whole. This would include developing our production and logistics service appropri-

ately in line with modern technology. Now I can encourage myself and give my opinion to fellow decision-makers at my company to take concrete actions in the designing of our corporate future.

Conrad Jeon was speaking to BVL's Curtis Domberg during the International Supply Chain 2019. A video of the interview will be available online soon [here](#).

## A Look Back at BVL in 2019

### JANUARY

#### Fresh New Look and Feel

After celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2018, BVL underwent a new corporate design as of January 2019 bringing a brighter and modern look to it. The BVL logo, now more prominent than ever before, sees its revamped design outline and reflect its network's nature as well as modern digitalization processes. The new design also comes in an extended colour palette using four accent colours, just over ten years since the previous CD makeover back in 2008.

#### BVL Report of the Board

The BVL Board rounded up 2018 with its annual report which came out at the beginning of this year in which the Board outlined the International Supply Chain Conference 2019 theme: "Inspire – Encourage – Act".

#### New BVL Chairpersons and Representatives

January welcomed new BVL officials to its international network with Nicholas Bischoff (jo-consultants Pte., Ltd.) and Sue Kim (Media K&I) becoming Chapter Singapore Vice Chairperson and Korea Representative, respectively.

#### Logistics in India

India and VAE BVL Representative, Christian Herzog (Nippon Express) delivered a presentation on the insights into logistics in India at BVL's German Foreign Trade and Commerce Academy (DAV), in Bremen on 23rd January, looking into challenges such as the country's infrastructure, climate, and regional differences, as well as outlining its potential in the sector.

### FEBRUARY

#### Forum Automotive Logistics



BVL President, Robert Blackburn (left), and VDA President, Bernd Mattes (centre), together with distinguished speakers at the Forum Automotive Logistic

2019's Forum Automotive Logistics attracted over 530 automotive experts at Europe's biggest automotive meeting during 5th – 6th February, at BMW World in Munich. Co-organised for the seventh time by the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA) and BVL, the Forum looked into the many challenges and opportunities the sector has to offer. Key issues such as sustainability, digitalization, and skill shortages were the main talking points of the agenda.

#### BVL Turkey Meeting

BVL Chapter Turkey Chairpersons, Arda Polat and Emre Tasci, together with BVL Turkey Representative, Altay Onur, were joined by over 20 local industry representatives from Jungheinrich, Sick, Omsan, Utikad, Arviem, and Ekol Logistics on 13th February in Istanbul, to outline BVL's aims and goals in Turkey. The BVL Turkey officials discussed with the country's network local potential activity topics, with data sharing and best practices in logistics being the focal points for future meetings.

#### TUM Asia Career Week in Singapore

BVL Chapter Singapore Chairperson, Andreas Radke, together with new Chapter Vice Chairperson, Nicholas Bischoff, got their first Chapter activity of 2019 underway with a visit to the TUM Asia Career Week on 27th February. TUM Asia is the first academic venture abroad by Technical University of Munich (TUM) and also has Nicholas Bischoff amongst its alumni. The Chapter Chairpersons connected with students thanks to common interests in logistics and supply chain management.

### MARCH

#### Visit to AGCO in Brazil

BVL Chapter Brazil welcomed 50 logistics and supply chain management experts from the Sao Paulo region to its first 2019 event with a visit to AGCO in Mogi das Cruzes. Under the theme "Digital Transformation in Motion", AGCO showcased its company's "smart logistics" along with its approach to digital transformation in supply chain. During a live demonstration, representatives of 4flow were able to present applied iTMS based on AGCO's live data and current shipments.

#### Chapter China – Beijing and DAV Visit Wuzi University

BVL Chapter China – Beijing Chairperson, Jean Wang, accompanied a DAV delegation group

to a visit at Beijing's Wuzi University on 27th March, where they were all joined by the host university's students and logistics faculty President, Prof. Jiang Xu, for an innovative tour of the facilities. During the tour, students tested VR equipment in the university's lab areas.

### APRIL

#### Supply Chain Day



Asensus was one of the companies to open its doors to the public on Supply Chain Day

Over 300 companies from 15 different countries opened their doors to roughly 23,000 visitors in total on 2019's Supply Chain Day which took place on 11th April. BVL's annual day of action initiative offers students and the general public, who may normally not consider career opportunities in logistics and supply chain, "behind-the-scenes" insights to the diversity and complexity of logistics. Companies including Amazon and 2018 winner for the German Logistics Award, Komsa Kommunikation Sachsen AG played host on the day of action. BVL Chairpersons from China – Beijing, China – Hefei, Korea – Seoul, and Chapter Turkey, also organised Supply Chain Day events on the day.

#### 35th Logistics Dialogue

The 2019 Supply Chain Sustainability Award – an award presented by both the German based BVL and BVL Austria – was awarded to Lkw Walter during the 35th Logistics Dialogue BVL Austria held in Vienna, on 11th April.

#### April Chapter and Representative Events

BVL Chapter Singapore hosted a facility tour of Nippon Express' new Global Innovation Centre on 2nd April, looking at the logistics service provider's daily operations and new facility functionalities such as modifying storage temperature as well as dust and insect reduc-



tion. At the BVL Chapter Poland Get-Together in Jawor, on 12th April, Chapter Chairperson, Jan Brachmann, presented to members of the local network the Chapter's aims for the Polish community. BVL Canada Representative, Nico Weidel, kicked off his first 2019 event which consisted of a visit to (HBC) Hudson Bay Company's distribution centre in Ontario on 12th April, where 20 participants – including Walmart, DHL, and HBC representatives – discussed in roundtable format the challenges in place for optimising large Omni channel networks. And on 16th April, BVL Chapter Russia co-organised and jointly hosted 6th German-Russian Logistics Forum in Moscow during which Chapter Russia Chairperson, Mirco Nowak chaired two of the Forum's panel discussions, and Chapter Vice Chairperson, Kirill Vlasov, also gave a presentation on Contract Logistics.

## MAY

### BVL Turkey "New Technologies in Logistics" Seminar

On 8th May, BVL Chapter Turkey held a seminar on "New Technologies in Logistics" together with co-organiser Altinbas University. The event welcomed over 50 logistics and SCM enthusiasts including representatives of SICK Turkey, Jungheinrich, and Hapag-Lloyd.

### Forum Chemical Logistics

The 2019 Forum Chemical Logistics took place with a site visit on 14th May at BASF's plant in Schwarzheide and continued on 15th May in the German Hygiene Museum in Dresden with the event theme focusing on "Using Resources Efficiently". BASF Dr. Colin von Ettingshausen, who kicked off the forum's second day with his speech, told the almost 150 participants how the region's resources give it the potential to become the first stop on the New Silk Road.

### Consumer Goods Logistics at Barilla

BVL Focus Group, Consumer Goods Logistics, took part on a 15 member delegation visit to Barilla SpA in Parma, on 23rd May. The group also formed a lively discussion comparing differences between Germany and Italy, as well as raising the importance of sustainability.

## JUNE

### transport logistic

BVL attended the 2019 transport logistic in Munich from 4th – 7th June and was also amongst the more than 2,300 exhibitors to showcase its network in its new and freshly

designed booth to the 64,000 visitors from over 125 countries. As on previous occasions, BVL accompanied the conference programme with expert forums on women in logistics, Brexit, and a debate on whether or not it is the end of the globalisation.

### 41st Members' Meeting



Thomas Wimmer (left) and Robert Blackburn at the 41st Members' Meeting

During the transport logistic opening day in Munich, more than 100 BVL members took part in the association's 41st Ordinary Members' Meeting. At the various Board Elections, attending members unanimously elected the following six new members to the BVL Board: Alexander Doll (Deutsche Bahn AG), Dr. Christian Jacobi (agiplan GmbH), Stephan Wohler (EDEKA Minden-Hannover Stiftung & Co. KG), Tim Scharwath (Deutsche Post DHL), Andreas Reutter (Robert BOSCH GmbH) und Prof. Dr.-Ing. Kai Furmans (KIT, Karlsruhe University). Re-elected to the Board were Peter Gerber (Lufthansa Cargo AG), Karl Gernandt (Kühne Holding AG), Torsten Mallée (AEB SE), Josip T. Tomasevic (AGCO Corporation), and Prof. Thomas Wimmer (BVL). Both Frauke Heistermann and Jürgen Gerdes took leave of the BVL Board.

### 4th Korean-German Logistics Conference

Under the theme, "The Way to Digitized Transport Logistics", the 4th Korean-German Logistics Conference took place on 13th June in cooperation with BVL Chapter Korea – Seoul, MOSOLF Group, and Korea Maritime Institute. Roughly 100 Korean and German logistics and supply chain decision makers attended annual conference which saw MOSOLF Group CEO, Dr. Jörg Mosolf, and BVL Advisory Board Member, Prof. Frank Straube (TU Berlin) amongst the guest speakers from Germany.

### Chapter Management Meeting

From 20th – 21st June, 100 BVL honorary officials came together with BVL Office staff

from Bremen for the annual Regional Group Management Meeting – an annual get-together for Chapter and Student Chairpersons, Network Young Professionals, and Friends of BVL. Agenda topics included "The work of the chapters and communication", "Attracting, developing and retaining new talents", "Ladies in Logistics" and the "Digital pilot project". Chapter Mecklenburg-Vorpommern played host for the 2019 meeting which took place in Rostock.

### "From Amazon to Zwiesel"

Former BVL Chapter Luxembourg Vice Chairperson, Thomas Mayer, joined current Luxembourg's Chapter Chairpersons and members for the event titled "From Amazon to Zwiesel" on 28th June. Gathering different experiences from his logistics and SCM CV, Mayer was able to offer event guests sound advice based on the roles in his 30 year career at IBM, IEE, Amazon, Zwiesel.

## JULY

### New Chairpersons and Representatives

July welcomed new BVL officials to its international network with Ethan Cui (WAGO Electronic) as Chapter China – Beijing Vice Chairperson and Charles Christophe Fotso Bopda (F&B GLOBAL SERVICES) as Cameroon Representative.

## AUGUST

### AGC Glass Russia

BVL Chapter Russia invited the Russian logistics community to take part in AGC Glass Russia's grand opening of its new storage complex in Moscow. Guests were treated to insights into AGC Glass' various logistics processes for flat glass construction as well as the production of solar panel glass.

## SEPTEMBER

### Port of Amsterdam

BVL Netherlands Representative, Corine van der Sloot, hosted her 2019 event at Port of Amsterdam's office on 5th September, welcoming 20 members from the BVL Dutch and German community. The event theme, "The Logistics Hub", looked into how the Port of Amsterdam plays a big role, not only in the Netherlands, but in Europe, too. Representatives from hosts, Port of Amsterdam, as well as from Samskip and the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, took to the floor to deliver presentations.

### Advanced Supply Chain 2019 and Euro-Trans 2019

200 logistics and SCM experts from Poland and Germany took part in two conferences in Warsaw organised by BVL Chapter Poland together with publisher EUROLOGISTICS. Advanced Supply Chain 2019 on 26th September, under the theme “In Pursuit of Technology”, discussed the modern problems supply chain managers and planners currently face. Euro-Trans 2019 on 27th September, delved into the subject of the “Application of Artificial Intelligence”, in particular in mobility and supply chains. BVL Chapter Poland Chairpersons Jan Brachman and Prof. Wojciech Paprocki, together with BVL Office’s Prof. Thomas Wimmer, and BVL Scientific Board Chairman, Prof. Kai Furmans, were just some of the speakers to take part in the two conferences.

### OCTOBER

#### Chapter Brazil Event at Bosch

For its second event of 2019, BVL Chapter Brazil organised a visit to Bosch in Itupeva, São Paulo, on 8th October and looked into automation processes in supply chain management. Before the more than 30 guests were treated to a tour of Bosch’s onsite warehouse camera technology, they saw presentations on the event’s topic by representatives of Bosch, Interchains, and 4flow.

### Inspire – Encourage – Act



BMW Group accepted the 2019 Award for Supply Chain Management at the gala stage.

From 23rd to 25th October, over 3,200 participants walked through the International Supply Chain Conference 2019’s doors, in Berlin. Roughly 150 guest speakers discussed on the various issues, trends, and strategies the modern logistics and supply chain management industry currently faces. Referring to this year’s conference title, “Inspire – Encourage – Act”, BVL President, Robert Blackburn, rallied on guests during his opening speech to overcome economic uncertainties by looking ahead with courage and to make the most of the developments digitalization has to offer. The 2019 German Award for Supply Chain Management went to BMW Group for its transport and intralogistics project “Logistics Next”.

#### 2019 Riverport Expo

The 2019 Riverport Expo took place in Moscow from 29th – 30th October, during which BVL Chapter Chairperson, Mirko Nowak, moderated a panel which looked into Russia’s role as a “bridge” between Asia and Europe through linking multimodal transport corridors. The Riverport Expo is dedicated to the development of inland water transport and industry investment.

### NOVEMBER

#### BVL Board

During its meeting on 21st November, in Bonn, the BVL Board announced its decision to co-opt Christina Thurner (Member of Management, Loxxess AG) as new BVL Board Member with immediate effect. Thurner will stand for election during the 2020 Ordinary Members’ Meeting.

### DECEMBER

#### Call for papers submission

Abstracts, papers, and presentations for next year’s International Scientific Symposium on Logistics (ISSL) were accepted until 15th December. The 2020 ISSL takes place from 16th – 17th June, in Dresden, under the title “Logistics for a Sustainable Future – Contributions from Science”. Accepted applicants will be notified from 20th January.

## The Network Continues to Grow – New International BVL Members

**MEMBERSHIP** BVL welcomes the following new international corporate members for the last six months of 2019:

- SLOC GmbH
- SONA VPC Korea Co., Ltd.
- Qubiz
- Societe Wabland Sarl
- COMIMPEX SARL
- Degrandow sarl
- TRANSAFRIQUE LOGISTICS CAMEROON S.A.
- Winmore
- Information Technologies of Business
- ILB Group Logistics
- ESIC
- Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.
- ETS Les Promesses
- Kinaxis
- SupplyStack



## Logistics for Listeners



**PODCAST** Regardless of whether you're on a long car trip, out for a jog or simply relaxing in an armchair, a podcast is always a good companion. So it's good to know that there is now a fortnightly podcast from BVL.digital for all those interested in logistics. Some Episodes are aired in English. The topics are as diverse as logistics itself, ranging from digital transformation, sustainability and new technologies to world trade and logistics as an occupation. Presenter Boris Felgendreher talks to people like Rami Avidan from Deutsche Telekom about the "The Internet of Things in Logistics" and Bjorn Vang Jensen from Electrolux, who outlines his

perspective on "The World of Global Logistics". The podcasts are available free of charge on all the usual platforms, including Apple Podcasts and Spotify. And they're certainly worth a listen!

And by the way: BVL President Robert Blackburn is the guest in episode 59 of the [Alcott Global podcast](#) and talks about the skills that a supply chain leader needs: "A Chief Supply Chain Officer must be a life long learner, collaborative, and a leader that people want to follow."

[more ...](#)

## Saxony Competence Centre – a Byword for Automotive Expertise and Experience

**FORUM AUTOMOTIVE LOGISTICS** The Forum Automotive Logistics – a joint event of the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA) and BVL – is the annual meeting place for logistics experts and supply chain managers from OEMs and suppliers as well as automotive experts from logistics, IT, packaging, service and consulting companies.

On February 5 and 6, 2020 the Forum will be held in Leipzig for the second time, and not without reason: the city has undergone a process of astounding structural change in recent years and has been transformed into a hub for both the automotive industry and logistics operations.

**TRADITION** The regional state of Saxony can look back on a long history as an automotive location. Innovations in the mobility sector like the left-hand steering wheel, central gearstick, series-produced front-wheel drive – many things that we take for granted today – have been devised in Saxony for more than 100 years. The Trabant was the first car with a plastic body as standard. Even after reunification, Saxony continued to hold its own as a centre of automotive excellence, with many famous carmakers opening factories there. In a nutshell, Saxony is a competence hub for all things automotive. The regional economic enterprise agency estimates that today roughly one in eight cars built in Germany comes from Saxony, which is home to a total of five vehicle and engine production plants as well as 780 component suppliers, equipment manufacturers



Leipzig's automotive location reflects new technologies such as lightweight construction and innovative drives as well as playing host to the Forum Automotive Logistics 2020

and service providers. With a massive 95,000 employees, 80 percent of whom work for suppliers, the automotive industry accounts for 27 percent of Saxony's industrial revenue.

**ECONOMY** Leipzig is the biggest city in Saxony and plays a major part in the economic success of logistics in the region. In 2018, Saxony's logistics sector turned over 11.7 billion euros and employed some 130,000 people – roughly eight percent of all employed people in Saxony. This makes it one of the most relevant states in Germany in terms of logistics and means that it is particularly attractive for companies with logistics-intensive operations. Chemnitz, Dresden and Zwickau are home to Volkswagen plants, and Leipzig is the location of Porsche

and BMW factories. In 2017, the Leipzig automotive and supply cluster employed around 8,500 people.

**TECHNOLOGY** Topical issues in automotive production include electric drive systems and fuel-saving lightweight construction. Daimler subsidiary Accumotive in Kamenitz makes lithium-ion batteries. At the same time, the Fraunhofer Institute for Ceramic Technologies and Systems IKTS, IAV Automotive Engineering and Thyssenkrupp Systems Engineering are cooperating in the "Embatt" project to develop large-area bipolar batteries in stack design that can be integrated in the chassis of an electric vehicle. At the Chemnitz University of Technology, scientists and technicians are



working together in the “Merge” excellence cluster in the field of lightweight construction research, while the Technische Universität Dresden houses the second major lightweight construction centre, the Institute of Lightweight Engineering and Polymer Technology. In 2020, the Volkswagen I.D. from the Zwickau plant will be brought onto the market. New technologies and the introduction of new series are fuelling a constant new stream of material flows. All this underlines the need for production and logistics to work hand in hand, and this is why the theme for this year’s Forum Automotive Logistics is “Tearing Down Boundaries – Merging Production with Logistics”.

**INNOVATION** The central location of the event venue at the heart of the automotive hub opens up a wide range of options for attractive plant tours. The BMW plant in Leipzig has been producing BMW cars for customers around the world since March 2005, with around 1,000 vehicles rolling off the assembly line every day. The plant makes more than 860 models in the classic “1” and “2” series alone on a daily basis. In September 2013, these operations were joined by the production of the BMW i3, followed in May 2014 by the BMW i8. Both cars are future-focused vehicles with alternative drive concepts and bodies made using carbon. Four wind turbines installed at the plant supply energy for the production of these automobiles.

The BMW Group was presented with this year’s German Award for SCM for its “Logistics Next” project. The concept focuses on the use of autonomous transport systems. At the Leipzig location, an autonomous outdoor transport robot called the “Autotrailer” transports semi-trailers from the parking space to the unloading and loading station. The “Sortbot” detects small load carriers with the help of a 3D camera and artificial intelligence and then stacks the containers on the pallet using a suction gripper.

The Porsche factory in Leipzig is one of the most modern and sustainable automotive factories anywhere in the world and is currently undergoing its fifth expansion to handle the next generation of the Macan compact SUV with fully electric drive. And Leysys – Leipzig Electronic Systems GmbH exploits the benefits of business intelligence, analysing the material flow system in real time.

All this means that the Forum Automotive Logistics 2020 will be taking place against an exciting backdrop. The presentations will be held in the Congress Center Leipzig, and – like the evening event at Porsche, during which the VDA Logistics Award will be presented – will all be simultaneously interpreted into English. The session entitled “Supply Chain Organisation” on February 5 from 2.15 to 3.45 pm and the



The Forum Automotive Logistics conference programme along with the evening event will be simultaneously translated into English.

keynote on “Barriers and Egos in a Digitalised World” at the end of the event on February 6 at 2 pm will be held in English. You can find further information and the full downloadable programme on the event website at [www.forum-automobillogistik.de/en](http://www.forum-automobillogistik.de/en).

## PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS

BVL, BVL/Kai Bubnitz, EUROLOGISTICS (p.5), Media K& (p.6), Klaus Hecke (p.8)

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