Global Transportation Supplier Selection Project

This project looks at how students can gain global competence to enhance career capabilities and be able to work effectively in a global environment. It begins with a review of the United Nations Global Goal #12 – Responsible Consumption and Production. While the focus of this global goal is to ensure sustainability into the future, how does global production and consumption, **from a transportation logistics perspective**, support this goal?

Specifically, globally competent students are able to:

* **Investigate the World**. Students ask and explore questions that are globally significant.
* **Weigh Perspectives**. Students recognize they have a unique perspective and that others may not share it, but they are able to respect all perspectives and create a new point of view.
* **Communicate Ideas**. Students can effectively communicate, verbally and non-verbally, with diverse groups.
* **Take Action**. Student can weigh options for action based on evidence and insight, see the potential consequences, then act and reflect on their actions.

(https://asiasociety.org/education/transportation-distribution-and-logistics)

Student Learning Outcomes

* Identify issues that need to be addressed at both domestic and global levels.
* Determine shipping strategies that have a positive impact on the global supply chain.

It is important for both carriers and shippers to understand the costs of transportation services and how they are priced.  The cost and pricing differ by mode and is dependent on the product, distance, weight, and more.  This understanding is critical to anyone who has to manage the transportation component of an operation.

But cost is not the only consideration. Of equal importance is how we choose an appropriate partner in a global supply chain that helps us, as a company, meet strategic goals and objectives.

This is a semester project with specific assignment due dates.

Consider: Your team is part of the Global Transportation Management department at I&H Corporation and is tasked with finding the most cost effective yet best overall global partner. The project is a focus on responsible consumption and production and how the supplier selection process enables that goal. This has elements of cost effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and more.

The project goal is to find/develop practices the company can follow when choosing a potential partner. “Supplier selection is a critical decision with sustainability impacts in global supply chain” (The impact of sustainability on supplier selection: A behavioural study. June 2021, Zhan, Chung, Lim, Ye, Kumar, Tan).

Given the importance of choosing the right partner, the team will identify an issue inherent to the transportation industry and develop a potential solution, so the supplier selection process is enhanced.

Think about the following questions:

1. What does the UN Global Goal #12 encompass? How does transportation fit into this goal? A review of the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) would be helpful. (The Triple Bottom Line: What is it and how does it work? https://www.ibrc.indiana.edu/ibr/2011/spring/article2.html)
2. What are major issues with global transportation that need to be addressed to support Global Goal #12? This can be cost, resource dependency, pollution, infrastructure, and more. The team will choose a focus for the project based on the issue chosen.
3. How does the transportation, distribution, and logistics sector impact global production and consumption trends?
4. How can companies in the transportation, distribution, and logistics sector adopt better practices now in order to pave the way toward a safe and profitable future for all?
5. How and why is global logistics a key aspect of accomplishing this global goal?

**Assignment 1**: Each team will choose a local company that can be investigated and interviewed to understand how this company is focusing their efforts on an issue affecting global transportation. Use this example as the starting point for analysis of the issue.

The team will do a detailed study of the UN Global Goal #12 and submit a 3-5 page written report detailing the global goal, how transportation fits into this goal, the company to be interviewed, a list of questions to be asked in the interview, and possible issues to be investigated.

Due date September 2 11:50 pm

**Assignment 2**: Local company interviews. Briefly writeup results of the interview and submit.

Due date September 30 11:59 pm

**Assignment 3**: A global transportation issue has been identified. Since the team is tasked with finding the best overall global partner, how does this issue fit into the project goal? Is it something that needs to be investigated further? Why or why not? How will the team incorporate this into their selection process? How might potential suppliers view this new requirement? Think in terms of different cultures and business viewpoints on the issue of profit over environment and people (TBL).

Each team will present initial findings in a recorded peer-reviewed PowerPoint presentation with audio. Students will be randomly assigned as peer reviewers with the intent to offer ideas/suggestions for further research by the project team.

Due date October 21 11:59 pm

**Assignment 4**: By this point, each team has received feedback from the instructor as well as their fellow classmates on their project.

A panel made up of employees from local supply chain companies will review results of each team’s project. This panel will be made up of a combination of companies interviewed by a team as well as other industry experts. Each team will present their research and will have 15 minutes for presentation and 15 minutes for Q&A. Each team member must participate in some way. All teams are required to be present during the scheduled Zoom session.

All questions must be addressed in the presentation. I suggest using a PowerPoint presentation to lay out points to be made. Do not overfill each slide. Instead, use bullet points that help identify points to be made. Do not read from the slides. Each team member should be familiar with the entire project and be able to respond to any questions asked by the panel or audience.

A final part of the semester project is to discuss how this project has helped each team member achieve global competence.

Due date November 15 4:00 pm.