

The right delivery

Training is critical to the logistics, transport and supply chain sectors, Alex Borg says.

Executive-level supply chain positions have gained both prominence and importance for today's global companies. To support this trend, universities, colleges and institutes have enhanced their logistics, transport and supply chain diploma and degree programmes.

"Organisations such as the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), Institute of Supply Chain Management (IOSCM), the Premier Association of Supply Chain Management (APICS) and the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) have expanded their certification programmes and training firms offering a myriad options to help executives stay updated on supply chain trends," says Alex Borg, education secretary of CILT Malta and founder and director of SSM Group Ltd.

It wasn't that long ago that logistics, transport and supply chain practitioners worked mainly behind the scenes, stealthily orchestrating the movement of products from the raw material stage to manufacturing and production and right on through to final delivery of the finished goods.

Typically occupied by employees who had successfully worked their way up through their company, these executive-level supply chain positions have over the last few years gained both prominence and importance for today's global companies.



Quality training and education is particularly relevant for supply chain executives.

To support this trend, training and education organisations have enhanced their programmes. This enhancement in training and education provides executives with the opportunity to hone their skills, upgrade their technology acumen and better understand the inner workings of the modern-day supply chain.

In some cases, this education is delivered in the traditional class-

room setting, but increasingly there is more interest in short sessions (two or three days), online course delivery, or hybrid options combining both.

The programmes are either non-degree-granting, certification-based, or lead to a tertiary degree in supply chain management or related subject. Customised programmes that are tailored to the needs of individual

companies are also growing in popularity, with most offerings targeting supply chain practitioners already employed in managerial and executive roles (or those aspiring to be).

The question is, what value do current logistics and supply chain practitioners gain from these programmes and how can they apply these advantages for their respective companies and own careers?

In most cases, advanced education can translate into better opportunities for advancement, improved job prospects, more respect and status (when compared to other employees who may have such level of education) and, of course, higher salaries. For employers, this type of education supports employee retention while ensuring that executives have the latest, most relevant knowledge and skills they need to deliver an excellent service.

According to key experts, the value of logistics and supply chain education goes beyond just providing better advancement opportunities and salaries. It's going to make your personal stock go up. It will make you more valuable to your employer and that will lead to a stronger career and higher income, Borg says.

"The value of supply chain education also extends to the companies themselves, which can use it to retain their top supply chain employees"

By enrolling and participating in quality training and education, one gains access to networking opportunities that could eventually lead to new career prospects, valuable information sharing and other career-building interactions.

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Malta has over 100 members, most of them working with the local leading firms.

"Through the network and workshop events we organise, they get together and brainstorm challenges and come up with solutions together," Borg says. "During the training workshops we organise, they work together to solve inventory problems, address supply chain issues and come up with ways to solve some of their biggest pain points."

In other words, quality training and education programmes not only provide knowledge and nuggets of useful wisdom, but they also encourage relationship building, brainstorming and a focus on continuous improvement.

"If one is serious about this profession, participating in these programmes, getting a certificate or even a degree, or attending a workshop will provide takeaways that one can then use on the job," Borg adds.

Quality training and education is particularly relevant for supply chain executives who may have

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