

# **A Study on Japanese Automotive Firms and Managing Supply Chain Vulnerability**

**Yacob Khojasteh**

Graduate School of Global Studies  
Sophia University  
Tokyo, Japan  
[khojast@sophia.ac.jp](mailto:khojast@sophia.ac.jp)

**Yasutaka Kainuma**

Graduate School of System Design  
Tokyo Metropolitan University  
Tokyo, Japan  
[kainuma@tmu.ac.jp](mailto:kainuma@tmu.ac.jp)

## **Abstract**

This paper presents an empirical analysis of the current status and challenges of supply chain risk management in the Japanese automotive industry. It is based on a survey with 47 manufacturing plants. We investigate the vulnerability of supply chains, efforts toward lowering the supply chain risks, and probability and impact of the risks. The results show that there are weak relations between geopolitical risk and technology risk, information risk and disruption risk.

## **Keywords**

Supply chain management, risk management, automotive industry

## **Biography**

**Yacob Khojasteh** is an Associate Professor of Operations Management at the Graduate School of Global Studies, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan. He received his Ph.D. in Engineering from the University of Tsukuba, Japan. He also received his M.Sc. in Policy and Planning Sciences, and in Industrial Engineering from the University of Tsukuba, and Tarbiat Modares University, respectively. His research interests include production and operations management, supply chain management, systems modeling and optimization, and lean production systems.

**Yasutaka Kainuma** is currently an Associate Professor of Operations Management at the Graduate School of System Design at the Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan. He received his Ph.D. and M.Sc. in Engineering from Meiji University, and the Tokyo City University, respectively. His research interests include operations management, supply chain management, quality management, and statistical data analysis.