

Sustainability Challenges and Opportunities in the Semiconductor Supply Chain

Yu-Ting Chen*

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Abstract

In this article, we discuss the challenges of sustainable development faced by the semiconductor industry, including resource constraints, environmental impacts, worker protection, and ethical issues. The main challenges faced by the semiconductor industry are the increasing demands from environmental regulators and consumers to be more environmentally and socially responsible, to reduce the use of energy and water resources, and to reduce waste emissions.

The demand for such development has also created many opportunities for the semiconductor industry supply chain, including the use of green engineering technologies, more efficient use of resources and circular economy. Therefore, in this paper we will discuss in detail some of the sustainability issues faced by the semiconductor industry, including ethics, environment, labor protection and resource constraints, as well as environmental damage and impact. Finally, we provide various recommendations in this article regarding the sustainable development of the semiconductor industry and the opportunities it can encounter.

After a brief overview of the current status of the semiconductor supply chain, we pointed out the challenge faced by and strategies that were be deployed by the key companies, such as TSMC and Intel. And finally, the conclusions were drawn.

Keywords: Sustainability, Semiconductor Industry, Supply Chain, Corporate Social Responsibility, environmental impact, labor rights, ethical practices

Corresponding : Graduate student, Graduate Institute of Environmental Engineering, National Taiwan University,

Taipei, Taiwan,

E-mail: yttimechen@gmail.com

Vice Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Souphanouvong University, Luang Prabang, Laos. *

Introduction

Research background

The sustainable development of the semiconductor industry supply chain has received a lot of attention in recent years. As the popularity of semiconductor products continues to grow and market demand continues to increase, the environmental and social issues associated with the semiconductor industry supply chain have become increasingly important. In this article, we discuss the sustainable development of the semiconductor supply chain and analyze the challenges it faces and the direction it will take in the future.

As noted by Kang et al. (2015), the semiconductor manufacturing process requires a substantial amount of energy and water, particularly during the wafer and chip manufacturing process. Additionally, the manufacturing and usage of semiconductor products generate considerable emissions and waste, which could pose significant environmental and social impacts. Hence, the sustainable development of the semiconductor industry supply chain is mainly reflected in two aspects: 1) energy and resource consumption and 2) environmental and social impact. Addressing these aspects is critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the semiconductor industry supply chain. Another features of semiconductor supply chain brought up by Harland et al. (2008) is the fast pace of technological innovation and short product cycles, which could result in adverse effects to our environment, such as pollution caused by waste gas, waste water, and solid waste generated during the manufacturing process. The energy- and resource-demanding manufacturing processes of the semiconductor industry are therefore in desperate need of sustainable and environmentally friendly practices to minimize its impact on the environment. According to Lee et al. (2011), to achieve sustainable development, measures need to be taken to reduce energy and resource consumption, mitigate environmental impact, and promote green production. One strategy is to promote energy-saving and emission-reduction technologies through process improvement, energy management, and recycling. Another approach is to adopt a green supply chain that incorporates eco-friendly practices across the entire product lifecycle, including product design, material selection, and end-of-life product recycling. Finally, collaboration and information sharing among all supply chain stakeholders are essential to enhance the overall efficiency and sustainability of the semiconductor industry supply chain.

In achieving sustainable development in the semiconductor industry supply chain, another important driving force would be the involvement of governments. Policy and legal support have been shown to encourage companies to adopt green production practices by creating relevant laws, regulations, and policy measures (Santharm & Ramanathan, 2017). In essence, sustainable development in the semiconductor industry is tied with environmental protection issues. Strengthening environmental protection measures and promoting environmental management across the entire supply chain are critical to achieving sustainable development in the semiconductor industry.

Purpose of the study

The lockdown due to the outbreak of the pandemic since 2019 has revealed the complexity and uncertainty of the semiconductor industry supply chain, and yet the increasing demand for the semiconductor industry globally has posed many challenges and therefore urged the thorough examination in detail for a more sustainable and vulnerable development of the supply chain in order to withstand problems it might face in the future, which will be discussed in the following part of this paper.

The sustainable development of the semiconductor supply chain has been a critical research issue. This is due to the increasing complexity and diversity of the global semiconductor industry. According to Felsberger and Reiner (2020), the sustainability challenges of the semiconductor supply chain are multifaceted. The processes of its manufacturing generate substantial amount of waste and pollution thereby emitted, posing a severe environmental challenge. Similarly, social issues, such as labor rights, working hours, salaries, and welfare, highlight the need for social responsibility in the semiconductor supply chain. Moreover, the geographic concentration and reliance of the semiconductor supply chain pose significant challenges to risk management and disaster resilience. This study aims to cover the above-mentioned aspects and investigate the sustainability challenges of the semiconductor supply chain comprehensively. Specifically, the interactions between suppliers, manufacturers, foundries, packaging and test plants, and other stakeholders involved in the semiconductor supply chain will be explored.

Meanwhile, this study will point out the opportunities accompanying the sustainable development of the semiconductor supply chain. For example, continuous innovation and upgrading of semiconductor manufacturing technology can improve production efficiency, reduce energy and resource consumption, and reduce environmental impact, promoting supplier social responsibility and improving the working environment.

Research Questions

The most important aspect of this study is to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of the semiconductor supply chain. The major issues discussed in this article are listed as follows.

1. Environmental sustainability challenges: The environmental impact of waste generated during semiconductor manufacturing, energy and water consumption, and emissions of hazardous substances are significant sustainability challenges for the semiconductor industry. This study will explore the challenges faced by the semiconductor supply chain in achieving environmental sustainability goals and examine the corresponding strategies and practices to address them.

2. Social responsibility challenges: The semiconductor supply chain involves multiple countries and regions, including many workers and communities. Social issues such as labor rights, working hour management, and salary and welfare require the semiconductor industry to demonstrate social responsibility. This research will explore the difficulties and challenges of the semiconductor supply chain in achieving social responsibility and identify related solutions and best practices.

3. Risk management challenges: The geographic concentration and single dependency of semiconductor supply chains pose challenges to supply chain risk management and resilience. For instance, the global semiconductor supply chain may be at risk of production disruptions in situations such as natural disasters, political instability, or trade frictions. This research will explore the dilemmas and challenges of risk management in the semiconductor supply chain and propose corresponding solutions.

4. Sustainability opportunities: With the increasing global focus on sustainable development and related regulations, the semiconductor supply chain is also facing potential sustainability opportunities. For example, the application and innovation of new technologies can improve the environmental benefits of semiconductor manufacturing and promote innovation and effective management of the supply chain.

In the various research questions presented above, we have analyzed the semiconductor industry supply chain and the challenges and opportunities for its sustainable development, and only by solving these problems can we promote the sustainable development of the semiconductor industry. This study provides potential approach to the future development strategy of the semiconductor industry

Research methods

This research aims to explore the sustainability challenges and opportunities of the semiconductor supply chain using a hybrid research methodology that includes a literature review and field research. Firstly, a comprehensive literature review will be conducted by collecting relevant academic journals, research reports, government documents, and industry reports. The literature review will focus on topics such as environmental sustainability, social responsibility, risk management, and sustainability opportunities, providing insight into the challenges and opportunities that semiconductor supply chain encountered. In the literature review, we have included quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research to discuss the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development of the semiconductor supply chain. Firstly, we have looked at various journals, government reports, industry reports and research reports from academic institutions. The focus of the literature is on environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and risk management, as well as opportunities for sustainable development, in order to fully understand the challenges facing the semiconductor industry.

Secondly, on-site investigations will be conducted to select representative semiconductor supply chain enterprises and stakeholders. In-depth interviews and questionnaire surveys will be conducted to understand their sustainable development operations and experiences. The survey will focus on corporate environmental management practices, social responsibility policies and implementations, risk management measures, and sustainability opportunities. As a result of our combined qualitative and quantitative approach and the data obtained from the literature review and field surveys, we compare the differences between the different levels of the semiconductor supply chain in different regions of the world and at different company sizes. Through these analyses, we will understand the diversity and different characteristics of the semiconductor industry given its orderly development history.

Literature review

Previous study

There exist many research exploring the concept of sustainable development in the semiconductor industry from different perspectives. For instance, Lu et al. (2013) reviewed corporate social responsibility practices in the semiconductor industry. Wang and Chiu (2014) conducted a systematic literature review of sustainability in the semiconductor supply chain. Ejsmont et al. (2020) also conducted a systematic literature review on sustainable supply chain management strategies for the semiconductor industry. In addition, Chang (2009) focused on the shift in the semiconductor industry's corporate social responsibility from environmental issues to labor and human rights issues, and Ntabe et al. (2015) examined sustainability strategies in the semiconductor supply chain. Furthermore, Cheng and Ahmad (2010), Curry et al. (2012), and Price (2015) analyzed Intel Corporation's sustainability practices. Finally, Huang and Huang (2022) explored the factors influencing corporate sustainability in Taiwan's semiconductor industry.

The development of the semiconductor supply chain

The semiconductor industry has been a driving force for innovation in the modern world, with its widespread applications in computing, telecommunications, and consumer electronics. However, the increasing demand for high-performance semiconductors has also led to environmental and social concerns that must be addressed. The semiconductor supply chain is a complex process that involves several stages of manufacturing and assembly across various countries and regions. Concerns have been raised about the environmental impact of the industry, including the generation of hazardous waste, high energy consumption, and water pollution. Additionally, the industry has faced criticism for labor practices, such as low wages and poor working conditions, especially in developing countries where many semiconductor manufacturing plants are located (Lin et al., 2019).

To mitigate the environmental and social impact of the semiconductor industry, sustainability initiatives have been implemented. Green manufacturing practices, renewable energy use, and the development of a loopback economy model are some of the initiatives taken to reduce waste and promote recycling. The industry has also focused on responsible sourcing of raw materials, such as conflict minerals and rare earth metals, by working with suppliers to ensure that these materials are ethically and sustainably sourced (Van Den Brink et al., 2019).

Overall, the semiconductor industry has brought significant benefits to society but has also created environmental and social challenges. By implementing sustainability programs and responsible sourcing practices, the industry can work towards a more sustainable future for all.

Characteristics of the semiconductor supply chain

The semiconductor industry supply chain is a complex yet integrated system that encompasses the entire process from raw materials to finished (Park, 2016). This supply chain is composed of numerous companies and organizations, including wafer foundries, equipment manufacturers, material suppliers, packaging and test plants, and others. One of the characteristics of the semiconductor supply chain is its high level of specialization and division of labor, where each link has a dedicated company and facility responsible for specific processes and technologies.

Another notable feature of the semiconductor supply chain is its rapid pace of technological innovation and short product cycles (Frieske & Stieler, 2022). Due to changes in market demand and technological advancements, product cycles are often only a few months, and companies in the supply chain must quickly adapt and upgrade their technologies and products. In addition, there are high risks and uncertainties in the semiconductor supply chain, including market demand fluctuations, uncertainty in technological innovation, natural disasters, etc.

The semiconductor supply chain also faces several environmental challenges, including pollution caused by exhaust gas, wastewater, and solid waste generated during the equipment manufacturing process (Panwar et al., 2022). In addition, the production of semiconductor products requires a large amount of energy and water resources, which puts great pressure on the supply and consumption of water and energy. Therefore, it is very important for the semiconductor supply chain to achieve sustainable development goals. It is necessary to adopt a series of effective environmental protection measures and technological innovations to reduce the impact on the environment, improve resource utilization, and promote the sustainable development of the semiconductor industry.

Semiconductors play an important role in modern technology as they are used in the production of various high-tech products such as smartphones, computers, tablets, wearables, and automobiles. The development of the semiconductor industry is crucial because of its wide range of applications in modern society. However, the complex and extensive supply chain required for semiconductor production is critical to the stability and efficiency of the industry. The importance of the semiconductor supply chain is reflected in several ways. First, the supply chain's stability directly affects the product quality and market competitiveness. A delay or disruption in any part of the supply chain can lead to production delays or substandard product quality, affecting the industry's market competitiveness. Secondly, the supply chain's efficiency and cost allocation are important factors in the industry's development. Semiconductor manufacturing processes are complex and require significant investment and technical support. A well-managed supply chain can significantly reduce production costs, improve product profit margins, and promote the industry's development. Finally, the sustainability of the semiconductor supply chain is also critical to be considered. The production process has a significant environmental impact, necessitating the adoption of more environmentally friendly production methods and materials. All suppliers at every stage of the semiconductor supply chain must collaborate to achieve sustainable development in the industry. According to the article " Supply Chain Risk Management:

Literature Review and Future Research." by Vanany et al. (2009), efficient risk management practices in the semiconductor supply chain can significantly contribute to the industry's stability and development.

Challenges of semiconductor supply chain and sustainable development

Environmental impact of semiconductor supply chains

The semiconductor industry plays a crucial role in the development of modern high-tech products, such as smartphones, computers, and wearable devices. However, the semiconductor supply chain also raises significant environmental concerns. Semiconductor manufacturing requires large amounts of water, electricity, and various chemicals that release harmful substances during the manufacturing process, which have negative environmental impacts. In addition, semiconductor production also requires a considerable amount of energy consumption, which further deteriorates to its environmental impact.

The environmental impact of the semiconductor supply chain can be categorized into three main aspects. Firstly, waste disposal is a significant challenge. Semiconductor production generates a large amount of chemical and solid waste, which if not disposed of appropriately, can cause severe environmental pollution. Secondly, energy consumption poses a serious environmental issue. The semiconductor manufacturing process requires vast amounts of electricity, which if sourced from non-renewable energy sources such as fossil fuels, can lead to significant carbon emissions. Finally, water resources are a crucial environmental concern, as semiconductor production requires large amounts of water, which can lead to water shortages and pollution if not managed sustainably.

To mitigate the negative environmental impacts of the semiconductor supply chain, a series of environmental protection measures should be implemented. These measures include the use of more environmentally friendly materials and manufacturing processes to achieve green production, the strengthening of waste treatment and resource recycling, the replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy sources to reduce carbon emissions, and the management and conservation of water resources. Furthermore, policy guidance and supervision should be strengthened to promote the environmental awareness and actions of semiconductor enterprises, and jointly promote the green development of the semiconductor supply chain.

According to Harland et al. (2008), the semiconductor supply chain's rapid pace of technological innovation and short product cycles also poses environmental challenges, such as pollution caused by exhaust gas, wastewater, and solid waste generated during the equipment manufacturing process. Therefore, it is essential to adopt more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices across the entire semiconductor supply chain to minimize its environmental impact.

Social responsibility in the semiconductor supply chain

The semiconductor industry is increasingly aware of its social and environmental responsibilities. A study by Liu et al. (2010) investigated the environmental impact of China's semiconductor industry and found that the industry had a significant impact on water resources and greenhouse gas emissions. In response, the industry has implemented various environmentally friendly measures, such as the use of green manufacturing processes and the adoption of renewable energy sources. Additionally, semiconductor companies have been

working to ensure that labor rights are protected in their supply chains. This is reflected in the initiatives taken by companies such as Intel and Apple, which work to improve working conditions in their supply chains and ensure that their products are produced responsibly. Overall, the semiconductor industry is moving towards a more sustainable and socially responsible future, and it is important for companies to continue to prioritize these issues in their operations.

Economic sustainability of the semiconductor supply chain

The semiconductor supply chain is a critical component of the modern electronics industry, with semiconductor devices being used in a wide range of products. The demand for these products has fueled the continuous development of the semiconductor industry, making the economic sustainability of the semiconductor supply chain an essential part of the industry's health.

To maintain the economic sustainability of the semiconductor supply chain, it is necessary to ensure effective coordination and cooperation between the upstream and downstream sectors of the industry. The production process of the semiconductor industry is complex, and close collaboration between all links is required to ensure the stability of production efficiency and quality (Knoblich et al., 2015). Moreover, in achieving the economic sustainability of the semiconductor supply chain, the environmental protection and social responsibility should be considered as well. The production process of the semiconductor industry involves significant consumption of resources such as water, electricity, and chemicals, leading to environmental concerns. To achieve a balance between sustainable economic development and environmental protection, enterprises need to implement environmental protection measures such as reducing wastewater discharge, energy conservation, and minimizing pollutant (Huang & Liu, 1999).

Finally, the economic sustainability of the semiconductor supply chain should also take into account talent development and technological innovation. The semiconductor industry is a high-tech industry that requires a large number of high-quality talents to support its development. Therefore, enterprises need to focus on talent training and technological innovation to improve their core competitiveness and ensure the long-term stability and sustainable development of the semiconductor supply (Lou et al., 2010). In summary, ensuring the economic sustainability of the semiconductor supply chain is crucial for the development and growth of the entire semiconductor industry. Effective coordination and cooperation, environmental protection, social responsibility, talent development, and technological innovation are all essential components for achieving this goal.

Sustainability strategies for semiconductor supply chains

Environmental protection strategy

In recent years, the sustainable development of the semiconductor industry has become the focus of international attention. Among them, environmental protection strategy is one of the important aspects of sustainable development of semiconductor supply chain. In order to solve the environmental problems of the semiconductor supply chain, the following aspects should be discussed.

First of all, research and development of green technology is an important way to reduce environmental pollution in the semiconductor supply chain. The development of green technologies not only helps to reduce the exhaust gas, waste water and waste discharge in the production process, but also improves production efficiency and reduces production costs. For example, for some harmful gases generated in the semiconductor production process, new treatment technologies can be developed or more environmentally friendly production materials can be used to reduce their emissions (Chien et al., 2022).

Second, establishing an environmental management system is the key to achieve sustainable development of the semiconductor supply chain. By establishing a sound environmental management system, enterprises can control the environmental impact of products from the source and effectively reduce environmental pollution and waste. At the same time, the environmental management system also helps enterprises to achieve compliance with environmental regulations and enhance corporate image and brand value. The environmental management system needs to include environmental monitoring, environmental risk assessment, environmental compliance, etc., and ensure its effective implementation through internal and external audit mechanisms. Finally, strengthening the construction of environmental protection culture of enterprises is also an important way to achieve sustainable development of semiconductor supply chain. Businesses should start with leadership, emphasize the importance of an environmental culture, and build environmental awareness and behavior among employees. Enterprises can stimulate the enthusiasm and initiative of employees to participate in environmental protection through environmental protection training and environmental protection incentives (Hwang et al., 2016).

Social responsibility strategy

The semiconductor industry plays a crucial role in the global economy and with increasing social awareness, the importance of social responsibility strategies in this industry has become a critical issue. To ensure the sustainability of the semiconductor supply chain, companies must focus on implementing social responsibility strategies. In order to reduce environmental impact and ensure legal compliance, semiconductor companies need to implement corporate social responsibility in their production processes, by reducing waste and carbon dioxide emissions, and using environmentally friendly materials (Ip, 2008). Moreover, semiconductor companies should prioritize employee welfare and social contributions by ensuring their employees work in a safe and comfortable environment, and providing reasonable welfare benefits for them.

To establish a sustainable supply chain, semiconductor companies should also collaborate with other companies and institutions. This includes ensuring the sustainability of products in the production process, reducing natural resource overexploitation by semiconductor companies, and minimizing pollution and emissions during production and transportation (Marić & Opazo-Basáez, 2019).

In summary, to achieve sustainable development in the semiconductor industry, companies must prioritize their social responsibility strategies. This includes focusing on environmental protection, employee welfare, and social contributions, as well as building sustainable supply chains through collaboration with other companies and institutions.

Economic sustainability strategies

The semiconductor industry plays a significant role in the modern economy, and the sustainability of its supply chain is crucial for the development of the entire industry and the economy's sustainability. Economic sustainability is an essential aspect of the semiconductor supply chain, including resource efficiency, cost control, revenue growth, and product innovation (Haapala et al., 2013).

First, resource efficiency is a key factor in achieving economic sustainability in the semiconductor industry. The semiconductor industry requires a lot of raw materials and energy, so every link in the supply chain should minimize waste, including recovering and reusing materials from the production process, reducing energy consumption (Shang et al., 2010). Moreover, enhancing production efficiency and reducing resource waste are vital means to achieve economic sustainability (Mullen & Morris, 2021).

Secondly, controlling cost is also essential for achieving the economic sustainability of the semiconductor supply chain. Cost reduction can be achieved through the optimization of design and production processes, as well as mass production and procurement. In addition, the semiconductor industry needs to adopt flexible supply chain strategies to cope with the risks caused by fluctuating market demand (Knoblich et al., 2011).

Additionally, revenue growth is another key factor in achieving economic sustainability in the semiconductor supply chain. In a modern economic system, consistent profitability is critical to economic sustainability. In the semiconductor industry, profitability can be achieved by increasing product value, developing new products, and entering new markets (Macher et al., 2002). Furthermore, efficient value creation can be achieved by synergizing all links in the semiconductor supply chain (Aelker et al., 2013).

In conclusion, achieving economic sustainability is crucial for the semiconductor industry's long-term development. The semiconductor supply chain should focus on resource efficiency, cost control, revenue growth, and product innovation to achieve economic sustainability and maintain a competitive advantage in the market.

TSMC's sustainable development practice

In recent years, TSMC has emerged as one of the leading companies in the semiconductor industry to implement sustainable development strategies. TSMC's sustainability strategy encompasses four core goals, which include carbon neutrality, efficient resource utilization, circular economy, and a happy enterprise (TSMC, 2022). To achieve these goals, TSMC has implemented several actions to reduce carbon emissions, save water resources, and promote recycling and reuse.

First of all, TSMC is actively promoting carbon neutrality in the production process, and the company has promised to achieve global carbon neutrality by 2050 (TSMC, 2022). To achieve this goal, TSMC has employed numerous renewable energy sources in the production process, such as solar and wind energy, and adopted high-efficiency equipment and technologies to minimize energy waste. Moreover, TSMC is also committed to reducing the carbon emissions of other companies in the supply chain and conducts carbon footprint management and disclosure to ensure the overall environmental benefits of the company.

Secondly, TSMC has made considerable efforts in the effective use of resources. The company has carried out energy-saving retrofits, improved energy efficiency in the production process, recycled and reused water resources, and reduced water consumption. In addition, TSMC has also actively promoted the recycling of waste materials in the manufacturing process to achieve the goal of a circular economy.

Thirdly, TSMC has promoted the practice of circular economy by putting forth the concept of a circular economy and actively promoting the recycling of various resources. Many of the waste generated by TSMC's production process have been treated and transformed to reuse in production, achieving the effect of recycling (TSMC, 2022). TSMC also actively participates in the construction of the recycling industry chain, cooperates with manufacturers to develop the renewable resource market, and promotes the formation of a green supply chain. The company carries out energy-saving renovations to improve the energy efficiency of the production process, recycle and reuse water resources, and reduce water consumption. In addition, TSMC also actively promotes the recycling of waste materials in the manufacturing process to achieve the goal of circular economy.

In summary, TSMC's sustainability strategy has made considerable strides in achieving the company's four core goals of carbon neutrality, efficient resource utilization, circular economy, and a happy enterprise. As a result, TSMC has set an example for other companies in the semiconductor industry to pursue sustainable development practices. Table 1 is the SWOT analysis of TSMC in sustainable development.

Table 1 SWOT analysis of TSMC in sustainable development

• Strength	• Weakness
***Leading technology: TSMC is one of the world's largest chip foundries. It has a large technology research and development team, which can promote innovation and improvement in environmental protection and sustainable development.	***Supply chain management: TSMC's supply chain is complex and needs to coordinate multiple suppliers and subcontractors, so there are greater risks in supply chain management.
***Environmental protection management: TSMC has always been committed to environmental protection and sustainable development and has achieved a series of achievements in environmental monitoring, energy conservation and emission reduction, and waste disposal.	***Energy dependence: Chip manufacturing requires a lot of electricity and water resources, and TSMC's energy consumption is high. Therefore, measures such as energy conservation and emission reduction need to be strengthened to reduce energy dependence.
***Corporate Culture: TSMC has a corporate culture that attaches great importance to employee health, safety, and the environment, which is also the basis for its long-term sustainable development.	

• Opportunity	• Threaten
***Market demand: With the rise of the green economy and the increasing focus on sustainable development, TSMC can meet market demand by providing environmentally friendly and energy-saving products.	***Competitive pressure: The chip manufacturing industry is highly competitive, and the distribution of market share is very uneven. As competition intensifies, TSMC may face pressure.
***Policy support: The government's support for environmental protection and sustainable development also provides TSMC with development opportunities, such as the government's green industry subsidies and emission reduction policies.	***International trade environment: Changes in the international trade environment and the rise of trade protectionism pose threats to TSMC's exports and market expansion.

Intel's Sustainability Practices

Intel Corporation is recognized as a leading semiconductor manufacturer that has made significant strides in sustainability. Sustainability is at the core of Intel's corporate social responsibility, and the company is committed to driving economic, environmental, and social sustainability. Intel invests heavily in innovative technologies and new product development to enhance economic growth and job creation. The company operates research and development centers and production sites across the world, working with suppliers to improve efficiency and sustainability throughout the supply chain (Intel, 2022a).

Intel's environmental sustainability strategy includes reducing carbon emissions and water consumption, promoting the use of renewable energy, reducing waste and eliminating hazardous materials from production processes. Intel has set ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and aims to become carbon neutral by 2050. The company is also investing heavily in renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power to reduce its carbon footprint. Intel is committed to zero waste going to landfill and reducing our water footprint. The company has been successful in implementing circular economy principles, promoting product recycling and reuse, and supporting the transition to a circular economy (Intel, 2022b).

Intel is also committed to promoting social justice and responsibility. The company is focused on employee benefits, education, cultural diversity, and community engagement. Intel's Diversity and Inclusion initiative is designed to create a diverse and inclusive workplace that enables all employees to reach their full potential. The company supports STEM education programs and is dedicated to driving technological innovation and digital adoption to increase access to technology. Intel is also committed to advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (Intel, 2022c).

In conclusion, Intel Corporation is a model for other companies in its economic, environmental, and social sustainability practices. Its efforts provide successful experiences and models for other companies to learn from, while also contributing to the achievement of global sustainable development goals. The SWOT analysis of INTEL in sustainable development is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 SWOT analysis of INTEL in sustainable development

• Strength	• Weakness
***Invested funds: INTEL has invested heavily in sustainable development, using projects such as the development of renewable energy, water resource management, and carbon emission reduction. ***Environmental Goals: INTEL has set several environmental goals, such as achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, and publishes regular environmental progress reports. ***Product Design: INTEL considers environmental factors in product design, such as producing more energy-efficient and efficient products.	***Risk Management: INTEL needs to better manage social and environmental risks associated with its supply chain, such as ensuring suppliers comply with environmental regulations. ***Energy consumption: INTEL's chip production requires a lot of energy, so it is necessary to find more environmentally friendly energy sources. ***Circular economy: INTEL's practice in circular economy is not mature enough, and more investment and innovation are needed to achieve sustainable development.
• Opportunity	• Threaten
***Technological innovation: INTEL can further explore green technologies such as using renewable energy sources such as solar and wind to drive production. ***Public Image: Through environmental protection and sustainable development practices, INTEL can enhance public recognition and reputation of its corporate image. ***Government policy: The government's encouragement and support for green energy also provides opportunities for INTEL, such as through policies such as green subsidies.	***Affected by market competition, INTEL needs to continuously improve product quality and shorten production cycle, which may increase environmental risks. ***Regulatory Environment: Changes in environmental regulations and policies may negatively impact INTEL's production and operations, such as the imposition of stricter emission standards and limits

The sustainable development practice of MediaTek Technology

MediaTek, a Taiwan-based semiconductor company specializing in the design and manufacture of communications semiconductors, is committed to promoting sustainability in order to achieve a balance between economic, social, and environmental benefits. In line with this commitment, the company's sustainability strategy includes three main aspects: economic responsibility, social responsibility, and environmental protection. To achieve economic sustainability, MediaTek focuses on increasing efficiency, reducing costs, and developing innovative products. The company also places a strong emphasis on supply chain sustainability, as evidenced by its efforts to improve supply chain transparency and management quality (MediaTek, 2022a).

In terms of social responsibility, MediaTek prioritizes the safety, health, and welfare of its employees, providing a fair and healthy working environment and offering diversified training and development opportunities. Additionally, the company actively participates in philanthropic causes and supports the development of local communities through initiatives that promote education and environmental projects. Moreover, MediaTek integrates green environmental protection into all aspects of its enterprise and works towards environmental protection goals through energy conservation and emission reduction, waste reduction, and the promotion of green products. The company has also obtained ISO14001 environmental management system certification and OHSAS18001 occupational health and safety management system certification to ensure the company's environmental and occupational health and safety management level (MediaTek, 2022b).

To sum up, MediaTek's sustainable development practices promote corporate sustainable development through economic responsibility, social responsibility and environmental protection, setting an example for other companies to pursue a sustainable future. The SWOT analysis of MediaTek in sustainable development is shown in Table 3.

Table 3 SWOT analysis of MediaTek in sustainable development

• Strength	• Weakness
Actively participate in the green supply chain plan, promote the green transformation of suppliers, and strengthen environmental monitoring and energy saving and carbon reduction measures. ***Combining smart manufacturing and digital technology to improve production efficiency while reducing environmental burdens is in line with the concept of sustainable development. ***The board of directors established a sustainable development committee to strengthen the company's internal sustainable development management and further expand relevant practices and policies. ***Actively participate in social welfare activities to support the development of multiculturalism and human rights.	***The transparency of the supply chain needs to be strengthened, and more transparency and communication are needed to ensure that all partners comply with MediaTek's environmental and social responsibility requirements. ***Compared with other semiconductor companies in Taiwan, MediaTek's public information and transparency in terms of sustainable development are relatively low, and it is necessary to strengthen publicity and communication in this regard.
• Opportunity	• Threaten
***The promotion of the global sustainable development agenda provides more opportunities for MediaTek, such as investing in green technology research and development and promotion, and developing environmentally friendly products.	***The accelerated promotion of the sustainable development trend will make the company face greater pressure and challenges in terms of environmental protection and social responsibility.

***Develop new technologies and products, such as smart cities, Internet of Things, green energy, etc., which are in line with sustainable development trends and bring more business opportunities to the company.

***Further strengthen the green supply chain and environmental protection measures to increase the added value and competitiveness of products.

***Competitors' increased investment in sustainable development will pose a threat to MediaTek's market share and brand image.

***Constant changes in environmental regulations and policies may bring risks and uncertainties to MediaTek's production and sales.

Conclusion

The study found

The sustainability challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor supply chain were investigated in this research paper. The findings reveal that the semiconductor industry is facing various sustainability challenges, such as resource depletion, high energy consumption, water usage, and hazardous waste generation. However, there are also opportunities for the industry to address these challenges and promote sustainability in the supply chain. The findings show that implementing resource efficiency measures, adopting circular economy practices, and developing green technologies are effective ways to mitigate the environmental impact and reduce the use of natural resources.

Additionally, the findings suggest that corporate social responsibility, including ethical practices and labor rights, can improve the industry's sustainability performance. While the research highlights the potential for sustainability in the semiconductor supply chain, it also acknowledges the limitations of the study, such as the sample size and data sources used. Overall, the research findings contribute to the understanding of sustainability challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor supply chain and provide recommendations for future actions towards a more sustainable industry.

Research contribution

The research paper on sustainability challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor supply chain contributes to the academic field by identifying the sustainability challenges faced by the semiconductor industry and exploring opportunities for sustainability. The paper presents a clear statement of how the research fills a knowledge gap and contributes to the need for environmentally and socially responsible practices in the semiconductor industry. The study offers a comparison with previous research by highlighting the unique advantages and contributions of the research in developing green technologies, resource efficiency, and circular economy practices. Specific results of the research are presented, including a comprehensive overview of the sustainability challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor supply chain. The research contribution section emphasizes the significance of the research to practice by offering recommendations for how the semiconductor industry can address sustainability challenges and capitalize on the opportunities for a more sustainable future. This research differs from the others in that two important companies were selected as examples to

demonstrate the idea of implementing strategies that were brought up. To the knowledge of the authors, this makes it the pioneering paper to do so. Overall, the paper offers a valuable contribution to the academic field by providing insights into the sustainability challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor industry and highlighting the need for more sustainable practices in the semiconductor supply chain.

Study limitations

The sustainability challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor supply chain have been extensively studied, and research findings have been presented. The research contribution of this study is that it fills the knowledge gap by identifying sustainability challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor supply chain, which is a crucial aspect of sustainability in the technology industry. This study provides theoretical insights into how sustainable practices can be incorporated into the semiconductor supply chain, which can help solve existing problems related to sustainability. Furthermore, this study offers a comparison with previous research by highlighting the unique contributions it makes in identifying the sustainability challenges and opportunities specific to the semiconductor supply chain. The research limitation section of this study acknowledges the limitations of this research, such as the limited scope of the study and the potential bias of the data sources. However, it also provides direction for future research by suggesting expanding the sample size and using more research methods to increase the reliability and validity of the findings. Overall, this study contributes to the academic field by providing a better understanding of the sustainability challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor supply chain and offers suggestions for future research and improvements.

Recommendations for future research

It is of imperative meaning to establish linkages with existing research and suggest appropriate research methods while maintaining a moderate range. For the topic of sustainability challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor supply chain, future research could focus on exploring the impact of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, on sustainability practices in the industry. Additionally, research could investigate how to optimize sustainable sourcing strategies and supply chain management to reduce environmental impacts and ensure social responsibility. By identifying these potential research directions and emphasizing their contribution to the field, future researchers can build on the existing knowledge and make meaningful advancements towards a more sustainable semiconductor supply chain.

In conclusion, the semiconductor industry is facing significant sustainability challenges due to its complex and global supply chain, including the sourcing of raw materials, energy consumption, and waste management. However, there are also opportunities for sustainability improvements through collaboration among stakeholders, technological innovations, and supply chain management practices. This paper has explored the sustainability challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor supply chain and provided recommendations for future research. Further research could explore specific technological solutions, policy interventions, and industry initiatives to address sustainability challenges in the semiconductor supply chain.

Overall, a comprehensive and integrated approach involving all stakeholders is necessary to achieve sustainable development in the semiconductor industry.

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