



## EDITORIAL

# Letter from the Editor-in-Chief: The “Asia and Global Business” Special Issue

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This issue of *JIBS* consists of eight articles, two research notes and a book review. All of the articles and research notes, except one, were submitted to the December 2007 Call for Papers for a Special Issue (SI) of *JIBS* on “Asia and Global Business”.

This Special Issue of *JIBS* represents the culmination of several years of hard work by the *JIBS* Editors, in particular by Guest Editors Rabi Bhagat and Mike Peng, and Area Editor Sea-Jin Chang, who served as the three SI Editors. The process began almost exactly three years ago (as of this writing) at the AIB/*JIBS* Frontiers Conference held in San Diego, 29 November – 2 December 2006, where the theme was “Asia and Global Business in the 21st Century” and the local program chair was Rabi Bhagat. At the conference, *JIBS* Editor-in-Chief Arie Lewin made two announcements: that Lorraine Eden had been appointed as the next Editor-in-Chief of *JIBS*, and that there would be a *JIBS* Special Issue on the conference theme, guest edited by Rabi Bhagat and Mike Peng.

Since the Special Issue submissions deadline would be after the start of my term, the rules and procedures that were followed with this Special Issue were developed by my editorial team, and have remained in place for all subsequent Special Issues.<sup>1</sup> Our SI process is a bit different from that at other journals. First, the SI Editors consist of one or more Guest Editors plus one *JIBS* Area Editor. The role of the Area Editor is quite heavy. First, she/he carries the same editorial duties as each of the Guest Editors in terms of handling manuscripts and writing the introductory essay. Second, when articles are submitted for the Special Issue, the Area Editor takes on (or assists with) the Reviewing Editor’s tasks of reading the submissions and making first-round decisions on desk rejects. Third, the Area Editor (along with the *JIBS* Editor-in-Chief and the Managing Editor) acts as an “inside editor”, as liaison with and support for the Guest Editors, ensuring that *JIBS* norms for fit, quality, contribution and timeliness apply to SI submissions, that *JIBS* policy documents such as the Code of Ethics are followed, and so on. After discussions with the two Guest Editors for “Asia and Global Business”, Sea-Jin Chang was asked and agreed to be the third SI Editor. He has performed all of these tasks both effectively and efficiently, for which I extend most grateful thanks.

Another major difference from Special Issues at many other journals is that the SI manuscripts at *JIBS* are assigned across the full editorial team, including the Area and Consulting Editors, rather than solely to the SI Editors. This has three major impacts: (1) a lighter load for the Guest Editors in terms of number of

manuscripts; (2) greater consistency with *JIBS* norms and procedures; and (3) the involvement of the whole *JIBS* editorial team throughout the SI process. For example, nine other *JIBS* Editors handled manuscript submissions for the “Asia and Global Business” Special Issue: Dan Bello, Witold Henisz, Lee Radebaugh, Lemma Senbet, Anand Swaminathan, Rosalie Tung, Alain Verbeke, Arjen van Witteloostuijn and Srilata Zaheer. I extend thanks also to these *JIBS* Editors for their hard work and commitment to this Special Issue.

One of the similarities with Special Issues at other journals is the introductory essay written by the SI Editors. *JIBS* 41.3 opens with a piece by Peng, Bhagat and Chang, introducing the Special Issue. In this article, the authors explore Asia’s global linkages and identify three themes in the SI papers: Asian firms expanding overseas; management, ownership and control of Asian firms; and multinationals competing in Asia. I want to thank the Guest Editors Rabi Bhagat and Mike Peng for their insights and dedication to this Special Issue.

An additional article and a book review are included at the end of this issue because of their good fit with the SI theme. The article, “Institutional constraints and ecological processes: Evolution of foreign-invested enterprises in the Chinese construction industry, 1993–2006” by Zhou and van

Witteloostuijn, uses insights from organizational ecology and institutional theory to show how institutional forces and ecological dynamics affect inward FDI flows and post-entry performance of foreign-owned firms in China. Lastly, the issue concludes with a review by Ravi Ramamurti of the new book by Anil Gupta and Haiyan Wang, *Getting China and India Right: Strategies for Leveraging the World’s Fastest Growing Economies for Global Advantage*. The review is introduced by *JIBS* Book Review Editor Ram Mudambi.

In conclusion, I offer my thanks to all the *JIBS* Editors (Guest, Area and Consulting), Reviewers and Authors involved in the “Asia and Global Business” project, to Managing Editor Anne Hoekman who handled all the background issues and details with superb aplomb, and to former *JIBS* Editor-in-Chief Arie Lewin who started us out on this venture. And, finally, to all our readers – enjoy!

#### NOTE

<sup>1</sup>The same processes have or are being followed in Special Issues on (1) “Conflict, Security and Political Risk: International Business in Challenging Times”, (2) “Qualitative Research in International Business”, (3) “Global Economic Crises and International Business”, and (4) “Multilevel Empirical Research in International Business”.