

Globalizing the *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*

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In 2007, the editorial home of the *Asia Pacific Journal of Management* will be leaving Asia for the first time—in fact leaving its founding school, the National University of Singapore (NUS), for the first time. Founded in 1983, *APJM* is the oldest and most prominent academic journal in the management field that is in Asia, on Asia, and of Asia. The move out of Asia is significant, because it unambiguously signals that *APJM* is globalizing. Similar to maturing young adults leaving their parents' house, it is time for *APJM*, as a maturing journal, to leave its home base.

As the first non-Asia-based (and non-NUS-based) Editor-in-Chief in the history of *APJM*, I have taken over the responsibilities with a grateful heart for the vote of confidence extended to me by Andrew Delios (NUS), my predecessor and editorial mentor, and the officers of the Asia Academy of Management (AAOM) led by President Chung Ming Lau (Chinese University of Hong Kong), who is also a Senior Editor. It is the hard work of Andrew and the previous generations of editors that has made *APJM* what it is now. Given that *APJM* has always been an “A” journal (remember, it starts with “Asia”—that is an A!), I am committed to making *APJM* stronger and better during my tenure (2007–2009) as Editor-in-Chief.

Taking over a journal is obviously a team effort. I thank Andrew Delios, our previous Editor-in-Chief, for his encouragement, mentoring, and hands-on assistance, Chung Ming Lau and Steven White for serving together as members of Andrew's team and for agreeing to serve one more term with me, and David Ahlstrom, Garry Bruton, Michael Carney, David Chan, Simon Lam, John Mathews, and Klaus Meyer for agreeing to join my team as Senior Editors. I also appreciate the support from 20 members of our Editorial Advisory Board and 38 members of our Editorial Review Board. At the University of Texas at Dallas, I thank Dean Hasan Pirkul and Associate Dean Varghese Jacob for agreeing to support *APJM*, John Fowler for helping launch the new Center for Global Business, which houses the *Journal*, and Yung Hua for serving as Managing Editor. At Springer, I appreciate the support from Werner Mueller, Barbara Fess, David Pervin, Cheryl Knight, Tracey Howard, and Judy Pforr who have greatly facilitated the editorial transition. Andrew Delios, Lorraine Eden, Yung Hua, Klaus Meyer, and Kulwant Singh commented on earlier drafts of this editorial. All errors are mine.

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Globalization...in business and academia

There is no need to waste a lot of ink on the globalization of business. Since the 1980s, Asia has been increasingly attracting foreign direct investment (Sethi, Guisinger, Phelan, & Berg, 2003). Despite the setback of the 1997 crisis 10 years ago, “dynamism” and “growth” have again become buzzwords in the corporate world in Asia and beyond. The theme of last year’s Academy of International Business (AIB) Research Frontiers Conference in San Diego, where I served as a Co-Program Chair, was “Asia and Global Business.” Closer to where I am, the top five trading partners of the Dallas–Fort Worth (DFW) region are all Asian countries, led by China—I was surprised to find out that Mexico, despite its geographic proximity, is *not* among the top five trading partners of DFW (Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, 2006). The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that by 2015, Asia may account for 45% of world GDP, based on purchasing power parity (PPP), including 20% for China, 8% for India, 6% for Japan, and 11% for other parts of Asia. If these IMF estimates prove to be accurate, then Asia’s economic weight will be more than the United States (20% of world GDP) and Europe (17%) combined.

The recent globalization drive at *APJM* started in 2004 when Andrew took over as Editor-in-Chief (see Delios, 2005 for details). For the first time, two scholars outside of Asia—Steven White (INSEAD) and I—were appointed as Editors. During the last three years (2004–2006), Andrew, Steven, Chung Ming (the other Editor on Andrew’s team), and I worked extensively to globalize *APJM*’s editorship, authorship, reviewership, and readership. We all shared the same vision that as management scholarship becomes more global and as research in and on Asia proliferates (Tsui, 2006), *APJM* needs to better position itself and raise its profile in the increasingly competitive global marketplace for ideas and intellectual leadership.

Therefore, the globalization initiatives under my chief editorship should be more appropriately viewed as continuation of the efforts led by Andrew. These initiatives are fourfold. First, as noted earlier, the physical relocation of the editorial office from Asia to North America is one of the boldest statements that *APJM* is globalizing.

Second, a world-class team of eight Senior Editors, based in six countries (Australia, Canada, China, Singapore, UK, and USA) on four continents (Asia, Europe, Oceania, and North America), has been assembled (Table 1). All Senior Editors are prolific and influential authors, having published a combined total of over 360 articles and 27 books (!). More importantly, all have published in and reviewed for *APJM*, often repeatedly, so they are intimately familiar with our editorial mission. Every member of our editorial team has worked in multiple countries. Our combined experience covers 21 countries around the world, bringing together a global perspective rarely matched by the editorial teams at other journals. As evidence of *APJM*’s further globalization, we now for the first time have appointed Senior Editors based in Australia (John Mathews), Canada (Michael Carney), and the UK (Klaus Meyer). In addition, Steven White (INSEAD) and Yung Hua (University of Texas at Dallas) have agreed to serve as Developmental Editor and Managing Editor, respectively. To all of you on the editorial team: Welcome on board!

Third, I have endeavored to globalize the composition of our two boards: Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) and Editorial Review Board (ERB). Until last year, seven of the eight members of the EAB were based in North America and one based in Europe. None was based in Asia. Starting this year, for the first time, five members based in Asia—Andrew Delios (NUS), Chris Earley (NUS), Yuan Li (Xi’an Jiaotong University), Kulwant Singh (NUS), and Dean Tjosvold (Lingnan University)—have been appointed to the EAB. In addition, our expanded EAB, which now has 20 members, welcomes Jay

Table 1 Globalizing the *APJM* editorial team.

	Country of birth	Current citizenship	Current affiliation	PhD school (year of graduation)	Articles	Books	Countries worked
Editor-in-Chief							
Mike W. Peng	China	USA	University of Texas at Dallas, USA	University of Washington, USA (1996)	45	3	5 (CHN, DEN, HKG, USA, VIET)
Senior Editors							
David Ahlstrom	USA	USA	Chinese University of Hong Kong, China	New York University, USA (1996)	50+	1	5 (CHN, HKG, JPN, SGP, USA)
Garry Bruton	USA	USA	Texas Christian University, USA	Oklahoma State University, USA (1984)	40+	2	6 (AUT, HKG, POL, RUS, TWN, USA)
Michael Carney	UK	Canada and UK	Concordia University, Canada	University of Bradford, UK (1984)	26	1	8 (AUS, CAN, CHN, HKG, HUN, NETH, POL, UK)
David Chan	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore Management University, Singapore	Michigan State University, USA (1998)	40+	1	3 (AUS, SGP, USA)
Simon Lam	Hong Kong	Hong Kong, China	University of Hong Kong, China	Australian National University, Australia (1995)	40+		4 (AUS, CHN, HKG, UK)
Chung Ming Lau	Hong Kong	Hong Kong, China	Chinese University of Hong Kong, China	Texas A&M University, USA (1991)	36	10	3 (CHN, HKG, USA)
John Mathews	Australia	Australia	Macquarie University, Australia	University of London, UK (1989)	40+	4	9 (AUS, DEN, HKG, ITA, MAL, KOR, SGP, TWN, USA)
Klaus Meyer	Germany	Germany	University of Reading, UK	London Business School, UK (1997)	30	3	6 (DEN, GER, HKG, TWN, UK, USA)
Developmental Editor							
Steven White	USA	USA	INSEAD, France and Singapore	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA (1997)	17	2	9 (CHN, FRA, HKG, IND, ITA, JPN, MAL, SGP, USA)

Countries worked include short-term teaching, research, and visiting appointments. *AUS*=Australia, *AUT*=Austria, *CHN*=China, *DEN*=Denmark, *FRA*=France, *GER*=Germany, *IND*=Indonesia, *ITA*=Italy, *HKG*=Hong Kong, China, *HUN*=Hungary, *JPN*=Japan, *KOR*=South Korea, *MAL*=Malaysia, *NETH*=The Netherlands, *POL*=Poland, *RUS*=Russia, *SGP*=Singapore, *TWN*=Taiwan, *UK*=United Kingdom, *USA*=United States, *VIET*=Vietnam

Barney (Ohio State University), Greg Dess (University of Texas at Dallas), Charles Hill (University of Washington), Bob Hoskisson (Arizona State University), Ben Kedia (University of Memphis), Alan Rugman (Indiana University), and Oded Shenkar (Ohio State University). Our ERB now features 38 members, including 15 from Asia Pacific, 19 from North America, and four from Europe. New ERB members include Rabi Bhagat (University of Memphis), John Butler (University of Hawaii), Dominique Jolly (CERAM), Seung-Hyun Lee (University of Texas at Dallas), Peter Ping Li (California State University, Stanislaus), Jane Lu (Singapore Management University), Kannan Ramaswamy (Thunderbird), and Elizabeth Rose (Victoria University of Wellington). To all of you new EAB and ERB members, welcome on board! To all incumbents on our EAB and ERB, welcome again!

Fourth, our authors and ad hoc reviewers are more globalized than before. Increasingly, authors from non-English-speaking Asian countries have contributed to our *Journal*. For example, authors based in mainland China (Li, Sun, & Liu, 2006; Tang & Xi, 2006), Thailand (Le, Venkatesh, & Nguyen, 2006), and Vietnam (Le et al., 2006) have recently published their research in *APJM*. As a result, we are also increasingly drawing in reviewers from these regions.

Finally, don't forget: *APJM* itself is a product of globalization in *both* business and academia. Previously published by Kluwer, a multinational publishing company based in The Netherlands, *APJM* is now published by Springer Science+Business Media, which is the result of a merger between Springer-Verlag and Kluwer in 2004. Headquartered in Germany, the "new Springer" consists of 70 publishing companies in Asia, Europe, and North America, and is now the second largest scientific publisher worldwide with a program of approximately 1,450 journals (including more than 40 business and economics journals such as *APJM*) and over 5,000 new book titles per year. With 5,000 employees, Springer annual sales were €838 million in 2005. *APJM* thus is a proud member of a global enterprise. Practicing a little bit of what we teach and research in global business, we have editors, authors, reviewers, and production specialists of *APJM* based in Asia, Europe, and North America. With such global spread of the *APJM* team, we often "chase the sun" by electronically sending work in the evening to a location where the sun is rising. When we say *APJM* is part of globalization, we really mean it!

Ongoing and new initiatives

As I take over, I am pleased to report that the *Journal* is in good health. By October 1, 2006 (when I wrote these words), our projected annual number of submissions for 2006 is 150, which would double the number of submissions that we received in 2003 (74 submissions). For regular submissions, our acceptance rate has been approximately 15%. Since March 2005 when we started to receive, review, and process papers online, our editorial team has accomplished an average turn around time of only 48 days (!)—a considerable accomplishment in comparison to the slow decision speed at many other journals. An accepted article has a reasonable chance of being published in 6–12 months after acceptance, which again compares favorably with the slow production speed of many other journals. Also, there is strong indication that our consumers are reading *APJM*. In 2005 (the first year we tracked downloads electronically), the number of downloads of our article was 13,000. In the first 7 months of 2006, the number of our downloads already reached 13,000, and we expect more by the end of 2006.

There are three ongoing and new initiatives that started when I served as Editor under Andrew. First, starting in 2004, *APJM* has resumed the tradition of publishing one special issue on a theme every year, based on a special issue conference held the year before. These conferences and special issues focus concentrated attention on a key topic, bring like-minded scholars physically together in a small conference, and generate wider interest and stronger impact through the published special issues (Olk & Griffith, 2004). The topics of recently published and planned special issues (and their editorial overview pieces) are:

- Corporate crisis and turnaround in Asia (Ahlstrom & Bruton, 2004)
- Business networks in Asia (Dacin & Delios, 2005)
- Business groups and conglomerates in Asia (Peng & Delios, 2006)
- 25th anniversary of *APJM* (planned for 2007, to be edited by Mike Peng)
- Knowledge management and technology strategy in Asia (planned for 2008, to be edited by Yuan Lu, Eric Tsang, and Mike Peng)
- Varieties of capitalism (planned for 2008–2009, to be edited by Michael Carney, Eric Gedajlovic, and Xiaohua Yang)

Second, since 2005, *APJM* has launched a Perspectives section and a Reviews section. These two new sections feature articles written by established and up-and-coming scholars, with Perspective pieces being more speculative and forward-looking and Review articles being solid literature reviews. Thus far, a number of leading scholars have contributed to these two new sections, including Paul Beamish (2006), Sea-Jin Chang (2006), Ben Kedia, et al. (2006), John Mathews (2006a), Klaus Meyer (2006), Mike Peng (2005), Eric Tsang (2006), Rosalie Tung (2005), and Henry Yeung (2006). More interestingly, a cutting-edge debate on the nature of multinational firms has taken place, with John Mathews (2006a, 2006b) on one side and John Dunning (2006) and Rajneesh Narula (2007) on the other side in the pages of this *Journal*.

In this issue, Charles Hill (2007) and Seung-Hyun Lee and Kyeungrae Oh (2007) join the Perspectives and Reviews sections, respectively. Hill (2007) deals with digital privacy, and Lee and Oh (2007) discuss corruption. Both issues are major concerns affecting management and organization in Asia Pacific, yet we have not seen much research in *APJM* or elsewhere on these topics. I am confident that the two Perspective and Review papers in this issue will stimulate more research on these crucial but under-explored topics. In future issues, we have recruited leading scholars such as Ming-Jer Chen, Greg Dess, Geert Hofstede, Philip Kotler, and Alan Rugman—so stay tuned! If you have any ideas or suggestions for Perspective and/or Review pieces, please let us know.

Finally, since April 2006, we have embarked upon the exciting yet uncertain journey of evaluation by the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). Tracking by SSCI is an important indicator of a journal's quality and a key goal of *APJM* is to be listed soon in SSCI. We will be evaluated on two dimensions: (1) timely publication and (2) citation impact. While we are doing very well on the first dimension (timeliness), we are not sure whether we are doing enough to satisfy the second dimension (which is *not* specified by SSCI). While my editorial team and I will endeavor to publish the highest quality manuscripts by our own standards, one pragmatic way to demonstrate *APJM's* quality is to have *APJM* publications cited in SSCI-tracked journals. Therefore, a practical request for all *APJM* stakeholders (including editors, authors, EAB and ERB members, and ad hoc reviewers) is to cite more *APJM* articles in *your* SSCI-tracked journal articles. As Andrew wrote, "this will be a community-wide effort, but it is certainly worthwhile and feasible" (Delios, 2005, p. 119).

Making an “A” journal better

In closing, I would like to thank Andrew and all the previous generations of editors in the past 23 years for raising the profile of *APJM* to a position where it is now the uncontested leading academic journal of management in Asia, on Asia, and of Asia. It is my intention to make it even better, by turning this “A” journal truly into an A journal widely recognized by the worldwide community of management scholars. As a stakeholder of *APJM*, you can help, by (1) submitting your best work to <http://apjm.edmgr.com>, (2) reviewing for us, and (3) reading, citing, supporting, critiquing, challenging, and/or refuting articles published in *APJM*.

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