From the editor's desk

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With this issue and just over half way through my tenure as Editor-in-Chief, I would like to announce some recent developments at the *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*. The community of management scholars interested in the greater Asia Pacific region is vibrant and growing. Submissions to APJM continue to surge, doubling over the last 3 years and hitting some 730 in 2013. We were pleased to learn that the Australian Business Dean's Journal Review Panel included APJM to be one of six journals that were upgraded from B to A on its recent review of its list of Journal Rankings. APJM is the longest established management journal focused on Asia and the 2012 Thomson Reuters Citation Index's impact factor (4.1 in 2013) underlines our standing as the leading Asian management journal. At the time of writing (mid July 2014), the 2013 impact factors have not yet been made available. While a journal's impact factor typically fluctuates considerably in the initial few years of listing, we remain optimistic that we can maintain our standing in the rankings. While many top-tier management journals have increased their coverage of China (and before that Japan), APJM's pan-Asia coverage also deals with other less frequently covered contexts. Our region-wide positioning provides a distinct advantage in an area of research that is not well covered in other mainstream and Asia focused journals. All of this is very promising for the Journal's future.

One significant editorial development during my tenure has been to reduce the backlog of papers published online but not allocated to a specific issue. To achieve this goal, the Journal temporarily and significantly increased the number of papers published in each issue. In 2013 the Journal published 64 papers compared with 2011 when we published 41 papers. This year we expect to publish approximately 50 papers and thereafter we will revert back to pre-2013 norms expecting to publish some 36 to 40 papers each year. The specific purpose for the reduction in numbers is to continue to enhance the standing of the Journal by increasing the overall quality of papers published. One consequence is that the Journal now has a very high rejection rate. In 2013, we accepted only 27 papers, or some 4 % of papers submitted to the Journal. The acceptance rate is significantly down from previous years where acceptances were in the order of 7 to 8 %.

In another development pertaining to publishing ethics, the Journal's publisher, Springer, is a signatory member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and

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editorial guidelines to editors to upholding COPE standards and to investigating allegations of academic misconduct according to COPE procedures. In addition, since 2013 APJM has been a participant in CrossCheck, which verifies the originality of all submitted manuscripts against a database of scholarly publications with a web based tool (iThenticate) to check manuscripts against that database.

Editorial review board

Like all journals we are committed to enhancing the quality of the work we publish and to increase the Journal's reputation in among the academic community. But like many journals, today we also confront the obstacle of securing timely and high-quality developmental peer reviews. Our editorial review board has historically been relatively small, averaging approximately 25 members. To meet the surge in submissions, we rely too heavily upon ad hoc reviewers. Therefore, to increase our editorial capacity we have substantially enlarged the editorial review board to approximately 110 members. The membership is listed in this issue. Because a substantial number of papers submitted to the Journal originate from authors located in institutions in China and Taiwan, we were interested in expanding the editorial review board to include as board members established and up-and-coming scholars located in these jurisdictions. The composition of the editorial review board is now balanced quite evenly among Asia, North America, and Europe, better reflecting our authors' countries of origin for manuscripts submitted to and accepted in the Journal.

New senior editors

Maintaining a journal's vitality demands continuous renewal of the Journal's editorial team. Senior editors play a critical role in the management of APJM since they undertake complete decision responsibility for accepting and rejecting papers once they accept editorial responsibility for these papers. Accordingly I would like to welcome three new members of the senior editorial team: Ajai Guar (Rutgers University, USA), Peter Ping Li (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark), and John Matthews (Macquarie University, Australia). Ajai will handle papers relating to corporate governance and the internationalization of emerging market firms among others. Peter will handle papers relating to the growing area of indigenous research in Asia, as well as papers about trust. John will handle papers relating to innovation as well as in his new area of interest in environment and sustainability. John previously served one term as a senior editor and I am very pleased that he will be rejoining us. I would also like to mention that two of the top five APJM most cited papers (as compiled by Google Scholar) were authored by John in the pages of this Journal (Dragon multinationals: New players in 21st century globalization, Mathews, 2006, in APJM; Competitive advantages of the latecomer firm: A resource-based account of industrial catch-up strategies, Mathews, 2002, in APJM).

Inevitably, revitalization entails turnover and I would also like to announce that four members of the senior editorial team are stepping down after many years of service to the Journal: Yaping Gong (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, China), Eric Gedajlovic (Simon Fraser University, Canada), Klaus Meyer (CEIBS, China), and

Michael Young (Hong Kong Baptist University, China). On behalf of APJM and the community of scholars who are interested in its progress, I would like to say how very much we appreciate their service and commitment to growing the status and standing of the Journal.

Mike Peng Best Paper Award

Finally, I would also like to announce a recent decision made by a APJM subcommittee comprising of consulting editors and members of the senior editorial and consulting editorial team. The committee awarded the sixth annual Mike Peng Best Paper Award for 2013 to Peter Ping Li for his sole authored paper “Towards an integrated framework of indigenous research: The geocentric implications of Yin-Yang Balance.” In reaching its decision the committee noted Peter’s continuing contributions to indigenous research in the Asia Pacific region and the excellent fit of the paper with the Journal’s aims and scope. The committee also noted that the paper is “getting cited at an impressive rate.” While the paper was first published in Volume 29 Issue 4 (December 2012), the committee considers papers published in the previous 2 years in choosing the annual best paper award (see Table 1 for previous winners).

Table 1 The Mike Peng Best Paper Award for 2013

Announcing

The 6th Annual Mike Peng Best Paper Award

Awarded To

Peter Ping Li

“Toward an integrative framework of indigenous research: The geocentric implications of Yin-Yang Balance”

Asia Pacific Journal of Management, 2012, 29(4): 849–872.

Previous best paper award winners in the *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*

2012

Marc van Essen, J. Hans van Oosterhout, Michael Carney, 2012 (29(4): 873–905)

Corporate boards and the performance of Asian firms: A meta-analysis

2011

Kenneth S. Law, Chi-Sun Wong, Guo-Hua Huang, Xiaoxuan Li, 2008 (25(1): 51–69)

The effects of emotional intelligence on job performance and life satisfaction for the research and development scientists in China

2010

Mike W. Peng, 2005 (22(2): 123–141)

From China strategy to global strategy

2009

John A. Mathews, 2006 (23(1): 5–27)

Dragon multinationals: New players in 21st century globalization

2008

Klaus E. Meyer, 2006 (23(2): 119–137)

Asian management research needs more self-confidence

Michael Carney is a Concordia University Research Chair in Strategy and Entrepreneurship at Concordia University in Montréal. His research focuses on corporate governance and strategy in family firms and diversified business groups. His research has appeared in *Academy of Management Journal*, *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*, *Journal of Management*, *Journal of Management Studies*, *Organizations Studies*, and *Strategic Management Journal*. He is currently Editor-in-Chief at the *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*.