EDITORIAL

Letter from the Editor

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With this issue, *JIBS* inaugurates volume 35 that with one exception is entirely edited by the new editorial team that came into office on 1 July 2002. Most of the papers published in volume 34 were still accepted by Professor Tom Brewer, the outgoing *JIBS* Editor-in-Chief.

This issue is notable in several respects. It is notable because this issue publishes the first 'Perspective' paper from the first annual JIBS/AIB conference on Emerging Research Frontiers in International Business Studies. The paper 'Regional and Global Strategies of Multinational Enterprises' by Professors Alan M. Rugman and Alain Verbeke reports their empirical finding that only very few MNEs meet the criteria of being global. The paper raises important questions as to why most MNEs are not global and I expect that it will stimulate new research on firm globalization capabilities, influence of national institutional configuration, impact of Internet and new organizational forms. Several additional 'Perspective' papers are under review or waiting to be published in future of *JIBS* this year. Collectively, these papers should open and legitimize new International Business research directions.

The annual JIBS/AIB Emerging Research Frontiers Conference represents the official exploration arm of *JIBS* for new research opportunities. The aims of the conference are to encourage the exploration of emerging research ideas in an innovative environment, free from the constraints of traditional conference formats. To facilitate open discourse, redirect or shut down outmoded themes, legitimize the exploration of new research domains and build a community of international scholars across both the social sciences and the functional areas of international business. The second conference on the theme of Advancing IB Theories, Constructs, and Methods will be held at Michigan State University on 16–19 September, 2004 (see www.JIBS.net for details).

With this issue, I am also pleased to announce a further realignment of the editorial structure of *JIBS*. The Economics, Finance, Accounting (EFA) editorial area is adding a new sub-track on *Institutions and International Business* under the guidance of Professors Tarun Khana and Bernie Yeung. Professor Raj Agrawal has also joined the EFA editorial area as Departmental Editor for finance. A new editorial area has been created for *Technology and Innovation* under the guidance of Professor Tom Murtha. The objective of the new *Institutions and International Business* sub-track within EFA is to direct attention to the study of the interactive relationship between institutions on the one hand, and economics and finance behavior of firms on the other. The new *Technology and Innovation* editorial area seeks manuscripts that explore knowledge creation, innovation,

technology management and knowledge-driven competition in global and cross-national contexts.

At the 2004 AIB meeting in Stockholm to be held on 9–13 July, 2004, JIBS will inaugurate the first ever *paper development workshop*. This new JIBS initiative represents a collaboration between JIBS and the Program Committee for the 2004 AIB meeting. The JIBS paper development workshop has two objectives. First, it is intended to establish and nurture collaboration between JIBS editors and IB scholars in a new developmental process of research papers that will ultimately appear in top-tier journals, hopefully JIBS. Second, the workshop is intended to further the identity of JIBS with the AIB community by directly involving JIBS editors with the publication efforts of AIB members and by having as many JIBS editors as possible attend the AIB annual meeting. The workshop coordinators are Professors Tatiana Kostova and Arie Lewin. For important details, please check www.JIBS.net.

Finally, I would like to share details regarding the ongoing efforts to improve the timeliness of JIBS

manuscript review process. This past year the online manuscript processing system has been improved to speed, simplify and enhance the touch and feel experience of authors, reviewers and editors. In addition, the reliance on ad hoc reviewers has been decreased. Since the 2003 AIB meeting in Monterey, the Editorial Review Board has been expanded to allow Departmental Editors to assign two ERB reviewers to each paper. The new expanded ERB will be finalized with issue 35.2. JIBS will continue to make the best effort to use as the third reviewer one of four nominations from the authors. I fully expect that the streamlined online system and review process will decrease the delay in completing the first review to under 2 months (1 month from the time the reviewer receives invitation to review manuscript). My next Letter from the Editor will include a status report on submissions for 2003. However, it is clear from all indicators that submissions are up, manuscript processing times are improving and publication backlog is stabilizing.