EDITORIAL

Letter from the Editor

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This issue announces, by means of a call for papers, a JIBS Special Issue on 'Institutions and International Business'. The Co-Editors are Witold Henisz, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (JIBS Departmental Editor), Richard Locke, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Anand Swaminathan, Graduate School of Management, UC-DAVIS (JIBS Departmental Editor).

The idea for this Special Issue emerged from discussions and explorations at the Second Annual JIBS Conference on Emerging Research Frontiers in IB that was hosted by the Michigan State University CIBER (September 16–19, 2004).

Some research questions that the Guest Editors hope might be addressed in this *JIBS* Special Issue include '(i) How does cross-national variation in the extent of intellectual property protection, judicial efficiency and impartiality, antitrust policy, tax policy, environmental regulation, health and safety regulation, labor market regulations, financial market regulations, regulations on information dissemination or other formal regulatory structures influence the behavior or performance of multinational enterprises or their subsidiaries?; (ii) How does cross-national variation in institutions that facilitate collective action (e.g., public–private partnerships, development agencies, trade associations, business groups, labor unions, political parties, social movements or clubs) influence the behavior or performance of multinational enterprises or their subsidiaries?; (iii) How does cross-national variation in values, norms or deeply held cultural beliefs influence the behavior or performance of multinational enterprises or their subsidiaries?; (iv) Is variation in certain features of the institutional environment between home, prior host and the current host country more relevant for certain behaviors or their performance implications?; (v) What organizational mechanisms or practices allow subsidiaries in a host country to overcome potentially deleterious variation in institutional characteristics relative to the home country or prior host countries?; (vi) How do multinational firms respond to change in host country institutional characteristics? How do these responses differ from their host country competitors? and (vii) What factors contribute to multinational firms' successful or unsuccessful efforts to trigger institutional change?'

The overarching theme of that conference was 'Advancing IB Theories, Constructs, and Methods.' This is the first Special Issue to be promoted and managed under the new guidelines for JIBS Special Issues. The ideas must emerge from discussions at the annual JIBS Frontier Conferences. The Call For Papers is being

widely disseminated. It satisfies the policy of JIBS that (i) at least one JIBS Departmental Editor must serve on the guest editor's team, (ii) the minimum interval for submission of papers is at least 10 months and that (iii) all papers will be reviewed in accordance with the JIBS reviewing process. In addition, a paper development workshop will be held in August 2006 in conjunction with the Atlanta AOM Meetings for papers receiving a first round revise and resubmit. The goal of the workshop is to promote exchanges among scholars interested in the topics of the Special Issue and to intensify the development and maturation of manuscripts whose authors have been invited to

revise and resubmit their papers for second review. The PDW will also include scholars with expertise in the field as consultants and discussants.

It is my hope that this Special Issue will serve as a template for future JIBS Special Issues, and, that the Third annual JIBS Emerging Research Frontiers in IB to be hosted by the RSM Erasmus University Rotterdam (September 28–30, 2005) will result in further proposals for special issues. It is my aim that this process evolve so that JIBS will publish, in each volume year, one Special Issue and one Focused issue reflecting an intentional strategy of proactively exploring and legitimating new IB research frontiers.