EDITORIAL

Letter from the Editor

Arie Y Lewin

Editor-in-chief

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This issue of JIBS introduces several significant changes. The changes involve a new editorial structure, a new editorial area and a new book review board.

The issue leads off with the 2005 JIBS Decade Award and commentaries. The award was announced at the AIB annual meeting in Quebec City. The JIBS Decade Award Selection Committee consisted of Oded Shenkar (Chair), Henk W. Volberda, and myself. The Award Winner was Anoop Madhok, York University, Schulich School of Business; 'Revisiting Multinational Firms' Tolerance for Joint Ventures: A Trust based Approach'. The award was made during a plenary session chaired by Professor Shenkar. Following the two commentaries by Srilata Zaheer, University of Minnesota and Silviya Svejenova Nedeva, ESADE, Professor Madhok presented a retrospective on his award-winning paper. Following the formal presentation, Professor Madhok was presented with a check for \$1000 and the assembly adjourned to a reception in honor of Professor Madhok hosted by Palgrave Macmillan, the publisher of JIBS. This issue publishes Professor Madhok's retrospective, the two commentaries, and a reprint of the original award-winning paper. Research on trust in IB and in organization research is experiencing a new resurgence and recognizing Professor Madhok's influential contribution (authored while a PhD student) is very timely. Congratulations to Anoop!

JIBS Editorial Structure

After much deliberation and wide consultation, the following changes to the editorial structure of JIBS have been implemented with the publication of this issue:

Borrowing from the multi-divisional corporate world, the office of the Editor in Chief is being expanded to include four Deputy Editors in Chief of JIBS. Each Deputy Editor in Chief (DEIC) will be responsible for a subset of the 10 JIBS editorial areas (see below). The four DEICs will work directly with the Departmental Editors in their areas. Henk W. Volberda (who is responsible for the JIBS office at RSM Erasmus University) will continue as Associate Editor in Chief. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Tamer Cavusgil, Lary-Lih Farh, Don Lessard and Joan-Enric Ricart for their valuable service and sound advice in their capacity as Associate Editors in Chief for the past 4 years. I am delighted that they will continue to serve JIBS as Consulting Editors.

I am most appreciative and extremely fortunate that Harry G. Barkema, Lorraine Eden, G. Tomas M. Hult and Kwok Leung have

accepted my invitation to become Deputy Editors in Chief of JIBS. The new Editorial structure is summarized below.

Harry G. Barkema

Business Dynamics
Entrepreneurship and New Ventures
Technology and Innovation

Lorraine Eden

Comparative Capitalism, Institutions and IB
Economics and International Political Economy
Finance

G. Tomas M. Hult

Marketing and Consumer Behavior
Supply Chain Management
Operations Management

Kwok Leung

Organization and Management
Culture, Conflict and Cognition
Strategic HR and Industrial Relations

The following are some specific responsibilities that will be assumed by the four new DEICs.

- (1) Although I continue to serve as JIBS Editor in Chief and ultimately the proverbial 'buck' stops at my desk, it is my intention to operate as the first among equals.
- (2) I intend to be in regular consultations with the four DEICs.
- (3) Each DEIC will have responsibility for the editorial areas listed above. That includes monitoring and mentoring DEs, identifying new DEs as incumbents retire or recommend relieving DEs whose performance is not up to JIBS expectations, and handling appeals from authors.
- (4) Devoting time to read revisions and accepted manuscript files.
- (5) Working with DEs to evaluate their ERB members' performance and as appropriate locating new ones.
- (6) Active participation in decisions on identifying new focused and special issues.
- (7) Involvement in planning and oversight of annual Frontiers conference.
- (8) Meeting two or three times a year (at AIB, AOM and Frontiers conference) for team building, review of editorial and operational issues.
- (9) Author 'Letters from Editor'.

International Business Letters

With volume 37, JIBS is initiating a new editorial department – *International Business Letters (IBL)*. Traditional peer-reviewed academic journals find it difficult to publish contemporary relevant and rigorous papers on a timely basis. This is due partly to lengthy review processes, tendency to micro edit papers, publication backlog, and partly to the stigma associated with short research notes.

The goal of *IBL* is to publish thoughtful, high-quality submissions on all aspects of international business and management that are characterized by contemporary relevance, rigor and conciseness. *IBL* articles will either consist of new but surprising findings that are *contributions* to an existing stream of research on issues that are germane to IB or will be a *communication*, often by leading scholars, which briefly sum up extant knowledge about a phenomenon and suggest the next steps, or be articles that inform current debates or highlight a new model or suggest an alternative or contradictory approach to the study of an IB phenomena.

The aim of this new department will be to disseminate concise (maximum 4000 words), yet high-impact articles as rapidly as possible. The normal editorial peer-reviewed procedures of JIBS will continue to be applied. However, the relative brevity of articles and the commitment of *IBL* reviewers is expected to dramatically speed up the validation process. JIBS expects that *IBL* papers could be in the print queue within 5 months of submission. Such a timely process should increase the relevance of *IBL* and give IB scholars an incentive to participate in the discussion and exploration of IB-related phenomena by getting their work into a highly regarded peer-reviewed journal such as JIBS (see call for papers this issue).

I am very pleased that Sumit K. Majumdar, University of Texas at Dallas has accepted my invitation to serve as founding Departmental Editor of *IBL*. I will be working with him to build this new editorial area which promises to add an important element of relevance to JIBS.

JIBS Book Review Board

Book reviews provide a valuable service to JIBS readers. To enhance this service, JIBS is embarking on a strategy to increase the scope and reach of the JIBS Book Review Section. To achieve this goal, JIBS is decentralizing the book review process by establishing a new JIBS Book Review Board under the guidance and leadership of the JIBS Book Review Editor. The call for nominations to this new Book

Review Board attracted over 40 nominations. Following an extensive selection process, I am pleased to announce that the new board will consist of 12 members appointed for a term of 3 years. Each board member will be expected to complete two book reviews per volume year. The choice of books to be reviewed will involve a joint process between the JIBS Book Review Editor and the board. The new members of the JIBS Book review Board are Sara McGaughey, Leeds, UK; Lilach Nachum, Baruch, USA; Bob Pearce, Reading, UK; Patricia Nelson, Edinburgh, UK; Pierre van der Eng, Australian National U, Australia; Prescott Ensign, Ottawa, Canada; George Tesar, Umea, Sweden/USA; Nigel Driffield, Aston, UK; Paul Barnes, Queensland U of T, Australia; Jacob Park, Green Mountain, VT, USA; Dilek Zamantili Nayir, Marmara, Turkey; and Tatiana Zalan, Melbourne, Australia.

I wish to use this opportunity to express my deep thanks and appreciation to Klaus Meyer for leading the book review section of JIBS during these past 4

years. His leadership and entrepreneurship has created the basis for a distinctive, well-received JIBS Book Review Section. I also wish to acknowledge Klaus's support for working with me to establish the new JIBS Book Review Board, and in helping me recruit his successor Ram Mudambi, Temple University, who will assume the role of JIBS Book Review Editor as of JIBS 37.3. I look forward to working with Ram as he takes the JIBS Book Review Section to the next level.

In conclusion, JIBS strives to cover the widest range of subjects, disciplinary perspectives, and empirical methodologies of any journal that I am aware of. The intellectual reach that is represented in JIBS is beyond the scope of any single Editor in Chief. I believe that the changes to the editorial structure will serve to foster and nurture the variety of IB issues covered by JIBS, deepen the intellectual vitality of JIBS, insert JIBS into the discourse on contemporary and relevant IB issues and cement its position as the pre-eminent top tier journal in International Business Studies.