

05.04.2020

Dr. Haili He,
Elsevier Beijing Ltd. (China)

Dear Dr. He,

I am Dr. Kazi Iqbal, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Bangladesh. I would like to express my reaction as I heard the news that Dr. Wiemer was offered a one-year terminal contract for 2020. I am shocked. I believe this poses a great threat to the continued enhancement of quality of the journal as well as to the opportunities for growth of the economists residing in Asia who are serious about their academic works. In my letter, I will highlight the latter point as I am one of the beneficiaries of Dr. Wiemer's endeavor to locate and nurture the potential researchers of the developing countries.

I first met Dr. Wiemer in a conference on Asia and Pacific Economies at Xi'an Jiaotong Liverpool University (XJTLU) in China in 2018. I presented a paper in the conference and Dr. Wiemer spotted me there as she saw potential of the paper. I submitted the paper to JAE and Dr. Wiemer pushed me to my limits and extracted the best out of me. In addition to the referee's comments, her comments really helped me improve the quality of the paper. Eventually the paper was published in JAE and now it is among the top 3 articles downloaded in the last three months. She kept me involved in this journal and I reviewed a few articles for JAE. I also received a recognition as a referee from the journal. This has undoubtedly boosted up my confidence as a researcher. In short, this is how JAE, particularly Dr. Wiemer, has had profound impact on me growing up as an economist.

What makes her different from others is that she takes personal interest in the paper and if she sees potential she helps authors to achieve excellence. As a researcher in a developing country we feel that there is a strong demand for such mentorship and Dr. Wiemer has been supplying it relentlessly.

I strongly believe that Dr. Wiemer should stay longer and she deserves a three-year contract extension (renewable).

Kind regards,

Dr. Kazi Iqbal
Senior Research Fellow
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