



April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Dear Dr. Haili He,

As a current Associate Editor of the Journal of Asian Economics I am writing this letter to show my very strong support for Dr. Calla Wiemer as editor-in-chief and strongly recommend she be offered a 3 year extension to her existing contract instead of a 1 year extension currently proposed by Elsevier.

Whilst my association with JAE has only been just over a year now, I can look at the current situation with fresh eyes! We all share the same goals for the journal: to make JAE the leading international journal in the area of Asian economics. Even now JAE dominates its immediate competitors in terms of downloads and citations.

Despite JAE becoming the go-to journal in economic research in Asia, there is nonetheless still a strong push to still improve the quality of the papers published in the journal while at the same time increase the overall number of papers published. There is no magic dial that you just turn to simultaneously achieve these desired goals.

The only way to achieve the twin objectives of improving both the quality AND quantity of papers, is for everybody associated with the journal to work very, very closely with the authors. Compared to other journals I have been involved with, the interaction and guidance given to authors by the Editor and Associate Editors at the JAE is second to none.

There are two reasons why this duty of care is needed. First, the quality of English by many authors is often substandard for publication in an international journal. This is not too surprising as English for many authors is not their first language. Second, the understanding and presentation of technical issues with regards to derivations and econometrics, often lacks clarity. Whilst the proposed ideas, applications and use of state-of-the art econometric techniques means the papers submitted have potential, to make these papers suitable for publication and for a wider audience requires much support by the Editor and Associate Editors.

The clear benefit of working above and beyond the call of duty with the authors is the huge improvement in the quality of the papers published by JAE which, in turn, attracts even higher quality papers in the near future. The cost is that completion times from submission to publication are necessarily extended, although in the case of the JAE these times are no longer than any other journal I have been associated with either as an author or as an Associate Editor. In fact, the average completion times for the JAE tend to me much faster than they are for other journals

despite the additional efforts and pressures given to authors to raise the overall quality of their papers.

What makes this all work is the guidance and incredible energy of Dr Wiemer in her capacity as Chief-Editor of JAE. I know of no other editor who shows such a commitment and dedication to the journal and Asian economics in general. Dr. Wiemer leads from the front. My involvement with the journal is solely because of her devotion to the journal. In fact, I could not think of any better person to perform these roles and achieve the goals set by the journal and Elsevier.

For the journal to continually improve and expand on a longer-term basis it only makes sense for Dr Wiemer be offered a longer-term contract. Sensible planning requires long-term goals and strategies. What does not make sense, especially for the journal and Elsevier, is for Dr Wiener to be offered a short-term, short-sighted 1 year contract. Good editors are hard to find. Editors who show the dedication and commitment Dr Wiemer does are even harder to find! A change in leadership at this critical point in the journals history makes no sense which would most likely undermine the recent successes the journal has achieved under Dr Wiemer's leadership.

Given Dr Wiemer's support for the journal it is now time for Elsevier to show their support for Dr Wiemer.

Yours sincerely,

*Vance L. Martin*

Professor Vance L. Martin  
Professor of Econometrics  
Associate Editor of Journal of Asian Economics  
University of Melbourne