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Associate Publisher
Elsevier | STM Journals
Beijing, China

Dear Dr. He:

Greeting from Rocky Mountain High! I hope you and your office are coping well in this difficult time of coronavirus epidemic.

As you know, I just retired from serving the associate editorship last year from the Journal of Asian Economics (JAE) after serving the Journal as a senior editor (1991-2007) and associate editor (2007-2020). In a sense, my academic career grew with my association with the JAE and its parent organization, the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies (ACAES) through its distinguished scholars and friends. I am now serving on the ACAES Advisory Council. Thus, I have a vested interest in the growth of the JAE.

Frankly speaking, when Dr. Calla Wiemer was appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of the JAE in 2015, I had some reservation on her ability to handle the heavy duty of the editorship. But it turned out that she was able to devote much of her time in working for the JAE, and under her leadership, the JAE was listed in the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), and the JAE rating in the RePEc (Research Paper in Economics) 10-year simple impact factor for more than 2000 economics journals upgraded, when ranked in descending order, almost 100 points from the 250s range in 2015 to the 160s range in recent years.

In this respect, I would like to point out that the JAE listing in SSCI is utmost important in many academic institutions in Asian and other countries. It is one of, if not the most, important criteria for evaluation in promotion and tenure in academic career. I know of the importance of this for the first hand in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Australia, etc., where my students teach. In their promotion dossier, it is indicated specifically at the end of the listed journal name in parentheses as (SSCI-listed).

The upgrading of the quality of the JAE may also be seen from the compilation of “30 Articles from 30 Years of the Journal of Asian Economics,” which Calla had collected recently from nearly a thousand full-length research papers published in the JAE, based on the numbers of citations and downloads. It is worthwhile to note that, among the 30 papers she selected, 14 papers were published under Calla’s editorship: two each in 2016 and 2017, three in 2018, and seven in 2019. Other 16 papers are scattered from 1990 to 2015. While it is true that Calla emphasized the recent publications in her selection, and that the number of citation and download of papers usually taper off after 5 to 10 years of the publication of the papers, nevertheless, I submit that this is a clear indication that the quality of the JAE has been improving, and greatly under Calla’s editorship.

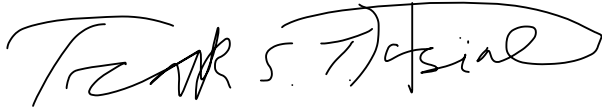
In addition to Calla’s compilation of the 30 articles, I have compiled two tables of the 30 most downloaded articles published in the JAE (see Tables 1 and 2 of the Attachments below). As explained in details there, both tables reinforce my observation and arguments about the recent improvement and popularity of the JAE and Calla’s effort and leadership.

I submit that the quality of the Journal is improving greatly in recent years since Calla can devote much of her time managing her work as the editor-in-chief, as she is mostly doing research with limited teaching. She is especially good in writing and economic reasoning, as such, she has been willing to spend a long time editing the writing and improving the content of the accepted papers, especially from non-English speaking authors.

Under Calla's leadership, the JAE attained the milestone of attracting high quality papers. The next objectives of the JAE should be to attract (or invite) more papers from some well-established scholars in well-known universities in the world. In this regards, we hope her personal cooperation with the new distinguished scholars in the JAE Editorial Board and Advisory Council Calla painstakingly searched and successfully invited could serve this purpose. At the same time, I am sure Calla will use her time to continue expanding the JAE, as she had done recently, to publish more articles in each issue to broaden the journal audience and visibility in the academic circle.

While I understand nothing is permanent, in view of Calla's exceptional devotion of her time in managing the JAE, and her successful efforts for the betterment of the JAE during the past five years, I would like to see that Calla be given another opportunity to continue her editorship for at least three more years to maintain the steady growth of the Journal and have sufficient time to achieve her new goals in this era of fierce competition among the economics journals.

Very sincerely yours,

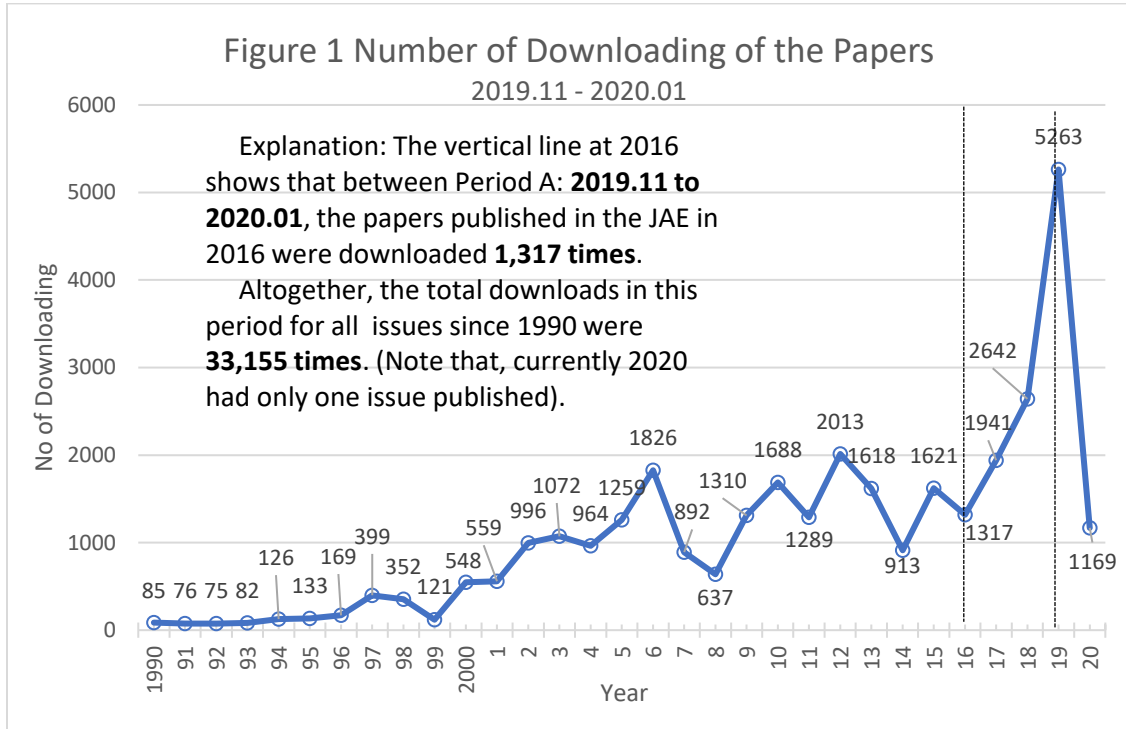
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank S.T. Hsiao', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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Attachments

Attached herewith are one figure and two tables.

A. Figure 1. The figure is explained in the note inside the figure.



B. Tables 1 and 2.

The two tables below shows the number and the ranking of the upper 30 most downloaded papers for two periods, respectively: Table 1, three-month period, A: 2019.11 to 2020.01; Table 2, 11-year period, B: 2009.01 to 2020.01, as originally provided by the Elsevier Office.

In column 8 of Table 1, the number of downloads of each paper during Period A was sorted in the descending order, and column 10 indicates the ranking. Similarly, column 9 of Table 2 shows the number of downloads of each paper during Period B sorted in descending order and column 11 enters the ranking of each paper.

From column 8, we see that the highest download in Period A was the paper by Iqbal, etc. on “Financial performance and corporate governance in microfinance: Evidence from Asia.” It has whopping 1,161 downloads after its publication in 2/1/2019 in period A. The next one, the paper by Zhai on “China’s belt and road initiative: A preliminary quantitative assessment” published in 4/1/2018, also had very high downloads of 778 times in period A.

In general, Columns 7 and 8 of Table 1 together show that, among the 30 most downloaded papers in Period A, 20 papers were published between 2016 to 2019 by Calla. It shows that the quality of the papers and attractiveness and relevance of the topics for the current world economy and research.

The total number of downloads in the three months period was 7,745, which is 23.3% of the total downloads, 33,155, of the papers and notes during period A. Thus most of the downloaded papers are published very recently in period A.

Naturally, the recently published papers will attract more scholars to read and download. However, Table 2 shows that, even in the longer period of 11 years (period B), three papers published in 2017 to 2019 during Caller's tenure made the list. It indicates again that the papers published in the JAE in recent years attracted the researchers and induced downloading. Note that, year 2000 paper by Kojima is still going very strong, indicating the importance of the topic of the paper.

The total downloads of the upper 30 papers during period B is 279,421, which is about 15% of the total downloads, a whopping 1,779,212, of all papers and notes published by the JAE. Thus, I submit, so far as we can see from the downloaded data, that the JAE is doing very well, especially in recent years, and is full of hope for further growth.

(Downloaded periods, A. 2019.11 to 2020.01; B. 2009.01 to 2020.01)											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
doi	authors	title	vol.	vol. title	issu	cover date	dnlds A 19.01- 20.02	dnlds B 90.01- 20.01	Rk A	Rk B	
10.1016/j.asie	Iqbal, S.; Nawaz, A.	Financial perform	60			2/1/2019	1161	8,284	1	14	
10.1016/j.asie	Zhai, F.	China's belt and r	55	Trade, In		4/1/2018	778	8,136	2	18	
10.1016/S104	Johnson, D.	Globalization: wha	13		4	7/1/2002	362	11,429	3	7	
10.1016/j.asie	Mahathanaseth, I.;	Monetary policy t	60			2/1/2019	329	1,964	4		
10.1016/j.asie	Iqbal, K.; Roy, P.; Al	The impact of ban	66			2/1/2020	325	363	5		
10.1016/j.asie	Zhang, A.; Wang, S.	How government	66			2/1/2020	282	455	6		
10.1016/S104	Kojima, K.	The "flying geese"	11		4	9/1/2000	277	10,950	7	8	
10.1016/j.asie	Glick, R.; Hutchison	Navigating the tril	20	Asiar	3	5/1/2009	245	6,098	8	30	
10.1016/j.asie	Nguyen, D.	Inward foreign dir	65			12/1/2019	236	363	9		
10.1016/j.asie	Xing, Y.	Processing trade, c	23		5	10/1/2012	230	5,254	10		
10.1016/j.asie	Kim, J.; Kim, S.; Mel	Macroprudential p	65			12/1/2019	223	304	11		
10.1016/j.asie	Yang, Y.; Greaney, T	Economic growth	48	Trade, G		2/1/2017	214	6,212	12	29	
10.1016/j.asie	Sahul Hamid, F.	Bank lending and t	66			2/1/2020	203	204	13		
10.1016/S104	Yashiro, N.	Aging of the popul	8		2	6/1/1997	198	1,986	14		
10.1016/j.asie	Hsiao, F.; Hsiao, M.	FDI, exports, and C	17		6	12/1/2006	196	16,540	15	2	
10.1016/j.asie	Dupasquier, C.; Ose	Foreign direct inve	17	Trade	2	4/1/2006	184	14,597	16	3	
10.1016/S104	Chirathivat, S.	ASEAN-China Free	13		5	9/1/2002	184	12,290	17	5	
10.1016/j.asie	Qureshi, F.; Kutan, J	Dynamics of mutu	65			12/1/2019	179	265	18		
10.1016/j.asie	Fidrmuc, J.; Korhon	The impact of the	21	Finar	3	6/1/2010	175	18,514	19	1	
10.1016/j.asie	Doytch, N.; Uctum, S	Spillovers from fo	60			2/1/2019	174	1,196	20		
10.1016/j.asie	Thorbecke, W.	East Asian value c	65			12/1/2019	172	269	21		
10.1016/j.asie	Park, K.; Fang, Z.; H	Stock and bond re	65			12/1/2019	167	263	22		
10.1016/j.asie	Omay, T.; Iren, P.	Behavior of foreign	60			2/1/2019	166	1,077	23		
10.1016/j.asie	Li, Q.; Scollay, R.; M	Effects on China a	44			6/1/2016	165	5,301	24		
10.1016/j.asie	Yamamoto, Y.; Mat	Gender-based diff	64			10/1/2019	165	423	25		
10.1016/j.asie	Toh, M.	Effects of bank ca	61			4/1/2019	162	964	26		
10.1016/j.asie	Doan, T.; Xing, Y.	Trade efficiency, f	55	Trade, In		4/1/2018	153	2,631	27		
10.1016/j.asie	Gong, T.; Battese, C	Family farms plus	64			10/1/2019	148	378	28		
10.1016/j.asie	Bui, A.; Nguyen, C.;	Impact of foreign	64			10/1/2019	147	306	29		
10.1016/j.asie	Anwar, S.; Sun, S.	Financial developm	22		4	8/1/2011	145	12,140	30	6	
Total downloads A. 2019.11 to 2020.01, upper 30 full papers							a	7,745	149,156		
Total downloads A. 2019.11 to 2020.01, all 1670 papers and notes							b	33,155	(a/b =0.234)		

Note: Based on the data from the Elsevier SCOPUS, Elsevier Publishing Co. March 2020.

(Downloaded periods, A. 2019.11 to 2020.01; B. 2009.01 to 2020.01)										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
doi	authors	title	vol.	vol title	issue	cover date	dnlds A 19.01- 20.02	dnlds B 90.01- 20.01	Rk A	Rk B
10.1016/j.a	Fidrmuc, J.; Korhonen	The impact of the	21	The	3	6/1/2010	175	18,514	19	1
10.1016/j.a	Hsiao, F.; Hsiao, M.	FDI, exports, and	17		6	12/1/2006	196	16,540	15	2
10.1016/j.a	Dupasquier, C.; Ossa	Foreign direct inve	17	Trad	2	4/1/2006	184	14,597	16	3
10.1016/j.a	Claessens, S.; Ayhan	The global financi	21	The	3	6/1/2010	113	13,571		4
10.1016/S1	Chirathivat, S.	ASEAN–China Free	13		5	9/1/2002	184	12,290	17	5
10.1016/j.a	Anwar, S.; Sun, S.	Financial developm	22		4	8/1/2011	145	12,140	30	6
10.1016/S1	Johnson, D.	Globalization: wha	13		4	7/1/2002	362	11,429	3	7
10.1016/S1	Kojima, K.	The “flying geese”	11		4	9/1/2000	277	10,950	7	8
10.1016/S1	Wongbangpo, P.; S	Stock market and	13		1	1/1/2002	93	10,183		9
10.1016/j.a	Blundell-Wignall, A.	Origins of the fina	20		5	9/1/2009	19	10,054		10
10.1016/j.a	Lobel, O.	Sustainable capita	17		1	2/1/2006	139	8,760		11
10.1016/j.a	Levis, J.	Adoption of corpo	17		1	2/1/2006	116	8,442		12
10.1016/j.a	Kawai, M.; Wignar	Asian FTAs: Trends	22		1	2/1/2011	68	8,288		13
10.1016/j.a	Iqbal, S.; Nawaz, A.	Financial perform	60			2/1/2019	1161	8,284	1	14
10.1016/j.a	Tuan, C.; Ng, L.; Zh	China's post-econ	20	Asia	3	5/1/2009	58	8,273		15
10.1016/j.a	Jenkins, R.; Edward	The economic imp	17	Trad	2	4/1/2006	88	8,245		16
10.1016/j.a	Wei, W.	China and India: A	16		4	8/1/2005	72	8,232		17
10.1016/j.a	Zhai, F.	China's belt and ro	55	Trade, Ir		4/1/2018	778	8,136	2	18
10.1016/j.a	Wang, X.	Foreign direct inve	23	Tech	3	6/1/2012	107	8,029		19
10.1016/j.a	Kawai, M.	East Asian econo	16		1	2/1/2005	44	7,858		20
10.1016/j.a	Du, J.; Lu, Y.; Tao, Z	Institutions and FI	23	Tech	3	6/1/2012	102	7,653		21
10.1016/j.a	Click, R.; Plummer,	Stock market inte	16		1	2/1/2005	69	7,650		22
10.1016/j.a	Coudert, V.; Couha	Real equilibrium e	18		4	8/1/2007	16	7,195		23
10.1016/j.a	Liu, W.; Hsu, C.	The role of financ	17		4	10/1/2006	73	6,527		24
10.1016/j.a	He, X.; Mu, Q.	How Chinese firm	23	Tech	3	6/1/2012	68	6,427		25
10.1016/j.a	Plummer, M.	ASEAN–EU econo	17		3	6/1/2006	24	6,314		26
10.1016/j.a	Bown, C.; McCullo	U.S.–Japan and U.	20	Chin	6	11/1/2009	71	6,284		27
10.1016/j.a	He, D.; Zhang, W.	How dependent is	21		1	2/1/2010	74	6,246		28
10.1016/j.a	Yang, Y.; Greaney, T	Economic growth	48	Trade, G		2/1/2017	214	6,212	12	29
10.1016/j.a	Glick, R.; Hutchison	Navigating the tril	20	Asia	3	5/1/2009	245	6,098	8	30
Total downloads B. 2009.01 to 2020.01, upper 30 full papers							5,335	279,421	a	
Total downloads B. 2009.01 to 2020.01, all 1670 JAE papers and Notes							b=1779212	a/b=0.157		

Note: Based on the data from the Elsevier SCOPUS, Elsevier Publishing Co. March 2020.