



April 3, 2020

Dear Dr. Haili He,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Calla Wiemer's contract as the Editor-in Chief of the *Journal of Asian Economics* being extended for 3 years. I have joined the Editorial Board of the Journal as an Associate Editor in August 2018 and since then been working closely with Dr. Wiemer in handling submissions as well as organizing special issues.

I think her contribution is clear in rising rank of the Journal and impact factor in the past 5 years. Under her editorship the *Journal of Asian Economics* has become a Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) journal and the current impact factor of 1.111 is clearly one of the highest among journals with a similar scope and orientation. We can say that the Journal has become a top field journal thanks to her contribution.

In our meeting in January 2020 at the American Economic Association (AEA) meetings I have got an impression that you intend to have a fresh start of the Journal with a better qualified Editor-in Chief. You have mentioned of having an established prominent scholar in the position. Surely, there are professors at prominent universities with excellent publication records, who would qualify to be the Editor-in Chief.

But the most important quality for the Editor-in Chief is the dedication to the goal of the Journal. Dr. Wiemer's dedication for the Journal has been extraordinary. I have been witnessing first-hand how she goes an extra mile to give editorial assistance to authors, even to the extent of correcting English. She does this because her mission is to cultivate the economics profession in Asia.

Even though the center of gravity of the world economy is shifting to Asia, the same cannot be said of the profession. One of the reasons for this is a lack of a journal with a focus on Asia, which economists all over the world regard as a top journal in the profession. There is no short cut for the *Journal of Asian Economics* to achieve that status. The Journal needs someone like Dr. Wiemer who doesn't spare efforts in lifting the standards of the Journal by closely working with authors. For us to continue to see the fruits of her work, one-year extension of the contract is too short.

Tomoo Kikuchi.

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