

서울대학교 사회과학대학 경제학부
151-746 서울특별시 관악구 관악로 1
TEL : 82-2-880-6360, 6359 / FAX : 82-2-886-4231
<http://econ.snu.ac.kr>



Department of Economics
SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
1, Gwanak-ro, Gwanak-gu, Seoul 151-746, Korea
<http://econ.snu.ac.kr/eng>

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Dear Dr. Haili He,

I am writing about the issue of renewal of Dr. Calla Wiemer for chief-editorship of JAE (journal of Asian economics).

I do not understand why Elsevier is not offering the regular 3-year renewable contract for her, despite her dedication to the journal and proven record of her performance as the chief editor of the journal so far.

As one of the executive editors of the journal and also a referee, I have had a number of occasions interacting with you. It is my feeling that it is very fortunate for JAE to have such wonderful and committed chief-editor. She has been very prompt, precise, and fair in all editorial decisions and activities, which is proved by the progress of JAE in terms of several metrics, which you are well aware of. Such achievement by her is possible owing to her deep and wide knowledge about Asian economics as well as her reputation and networks accumulated over time. I have also attended the JAE session and reception at the last AEA convention held in San Diego. That meeting was superb, and far exceeded my expectation. She must have spent lots of her time, energy and care to make the event successful.

Actually I am saying the above based on my experience and role as one of the handling editors of another journal by Elsevier, *Research Policy*, the top journal in innovation studies. *Research Policy* have also had a similar issue with Elsevier when it tried not to renew the chief-editor, Ben Martin, at the end of his 10 year service. I think Calla's role and weight in JAE is quite similar or even more than Ben's in *Research Policy*, because as many as 10 co-editors, like me, share more or less equal responsibility in handling submissions, whereas in JAE her responsibility is far more important and heavier. We have to recognize her dedication and 'sacrifice' as the chief editor, rather than try to stop her.

In our academic community or Asia, it is a common and shared knowledge that no one can replace her and JAE will collapse if she step down. I would strongly recommend Elsevier to offer her longer term stable renewable contract.

Sincerely,

Professor Keun Lee, Seoul National University; kenneth@snu.ac.kr; C.P +82 10 27290418
Director, Center for Economic Catch-up
Editor, *Research Policy*; Associate-editor, *Industrial and Corporate Change*.