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Dear Dr. He,

I am writing regarding the contract renewal of the current Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Asian Economics* (JAE), Dr. Calla Wiemer. As the previous Editor-in-Chief of the JAE from 2007 to 2015 when Dr. Wiemer took over, I am concerned that a failure to offer her a three-year contract (renewable) would be detrimental to the future of the JAE and the study of Asian economies more generally. I would urge you to grant her this extension.

Clearly, Dr. Wiemer has been a successful Editor-in-Chief. I am delighted that my predecessor, M. Jan Dutta, who founded the JAE but passed away a several years ago, and I were able to convince her to take over the helm of the journal when I had to step down due to a new administrative position I accepted at Johns Hopkins University. When I left the JAE editorship, the journal was doing well and had risen to a position of 256 out of over 2000 economics journals ranked by RePEc, which we felt was encouraging for an economics journal focused on Asia. Dr. Wiemer was able to take the JAE significantly higher; the rank of the JAE by RePEc is now in the 160s range and, as you know, it is much harder to rise in the ranks at higher levels. Jan Dutta and I tried for years to have the JAE included in the SSCI, but it was Dr. Wiemer who was able to take the JAE over that goal line. In addition to boosting the reputation of the journal, the SSCI ranking has paved the way for more submissions from universities that count it in their tenure and promotion processes. It has become more selective and clearly more prestigious. She also has great ideas for the future, from special issues to innovative approaches to marketing. This strongly-favorable momentum will come to a halt if she resigns.

Another indicator of a successful Editor-in-Chief is the dedication that she can inspire in her editors, referees, and contributors. Dr. Wiemer has assembled a very devoted group that has been instrumental in not only supporting its ascent but also guaranteeing its future. I am attaching to this email some testimonials from the JAE community, as well as the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies for which Elsevier has been publishing the JAE. These are but a few examples of the support that our community has for her. Should her request for a three-year contract renewal not be accepted, I am afraid that she will resign and the JAE will lose the backing of its most dedicated and enthusiastic supporters. In addition to losing a top-notch, energetic and innovative economist as Editor-in-Chief, this loss of support will constitute a significant blow to the prestige of the journal and its future. I might also venture to say that it would be very difficult to bring in a suitable replacement. And a journal like the JAE requires a strong Editor-in-Chief.

By its reputation and working with Elsevier staff over an eight-year period, I am well aware of the strong priority that Elsevier rightly places on the quality of its publications. Without Dr. Wiemer, I am concerned that this solid and increasingly-influential journal will be at the minimum strongly adversely affected and could well cease to fulfill its mission at a time when it has more promise than ever. Hence, I would strongly recommend that you grant to her a three-year contract extension (renewable), at which time Elsevier can determine the progress of the JAE and decide on another extension if the JAE meets the criteria that it works out with Dr. Wiemer. I have every confidence that the indicators will continue to be compelling and your team will be enthusiastic to renew her.

Sincerely,
Michael G. Plummer
Eni Professor of Economics
Editor-in-Chief Emeritus, *Journal of Asian Economics*