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Southampton, 30 March 2020

Dear Dr. Haili He, Elsevier Beijing Ltd. (China)

This letter is in support of Dr. Calla Wiemer as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Asian Economics (JAE). She has been very active as editor, as well as president of the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies (ACAES). Using the metrics developed by Elsevier (Scopus), the journal has improved its citation performance. The JAE 2018 SiteScore is the highest since 2011 (the first year computed). The preliminary 2019 SiteScore shows an important increase, and JAE is likely to enter in the first quantile if the distribution for the first time. I have no doubt this positive trend is sustainable.

For years, Calla has taken an active role in promoting JAE in activities organized by ACAES, as well as other institutions. ACAES activities have been very important to cement the reputation of JAE since its creation. In addition, Calla regularly participates in many important academic events in the Asia region. We first met in China when I was at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU). We have organized an annual international seminar on topics related to the Asia and Pacific Economies. This is a round-table seminar with a limited number of slots to present academic papers, a joint event with Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI). We invited Calla to attend the 2018 seminar since most papers fit under the scope of the journal. She promoted JAE, inviting papers she considered a good fit to the journal, and provided feedback to presenters on how to improve their papers.

Since 2018 was a positive experience, the 2019 international seminar on the Asian and Pacific Economies also included the opportunity to selected papers to become part of a special issue of JAE on Financial Development in Asian Countries (in progress). Calla attended the seminar and, among 14 papers related to Financial Development, she invited the best quality papers to submit to the special issue. I became the guest editor of the special issue. This experience has been very positive and I have learned a good deal about the key role of the editor in the peer-review process.

In short, I think it would be a great lost to JAE to let Calla go. First, the impact journal metrics has never been better. Second, the strong connection between JAE and ACAES has served the journal well. Third, as editor-in-chief, Calla has been very active in promoting the reputation

of JAE and improving the quality of the papers published in the journal. Last but not least, many colleagues (including me) have learned from Calla what it takes to pursue top quality research and publish in top journals in Asian Studies, such as JAE. Please, do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Best Regards,

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