



Editorial

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Spring brings with it the promise of new life, another turn in the cycle of growth; and so it is with ABM, as we embark on a new quarterly publication schedule and look back over 2003 and the developments it brought us.

As a new and growing journal, we are steadily shaping the ethos that will characterize ABM as a distinctive vehicle for expressing academic work relating to the business and management environment in Asia. We aim to be a forum for cutting-edge and independent research and theory in this field, paying particular attention on local and regional contexts and perspectives. In line with this aim, we see our remit as extending beyond core management issues, to interdisciplinary studies involving economics, politics, culture, ethics, labour, human rights, gender and peace studies, wherever they may significantly interact with major issues of business and management in the region. In the areas of theory and approach, too, we welcome new ideas and paradigms that may help shed better light on the realities of the Asian scene. This is the editorial approach to which we aspire, and we look forward to sharing our journey towards that goal with our readers and contributors.

ABM's relations with other organizations continue to flourish. A new partnership with the Association of Japanese Business Studies (AJBS) was created, and ABM's third volume is set to include two special issues, featuring papers from the Japan Society of Business Administration (JSBA) in June, and from AJBS members in December. We are sure these issues will become indispensable references for Japanese management studies. Our partnership with EAMSA has also entered a new stage, in that from 2004 EAMSA membership will include subscription to ABM, which will surely provide a firm basis for a synergetic academic development.

ABM is now recognized globally. It has abstracting/indexing in ABI/INFORM, Glocom Platform (Japan), Bibliography of Asian Studies, INSEPC (IEE), IBSS, Emerald Management Reviews, IBZ and IBR, and is in preparation for SSCI recognition this year. We also hear that *The Library Journal* (USA) reviewed ABM very favourably in November 2003.

And so to this issue, in which authors focus upon key issues relating to Japan, China, Thailand, Britain and Australia. We start with a commissioned paper from Richard Werner, whose book, *Princes of the Yen* (M.E. Sharpe),



was a social sciences best-seller in Japan last year. I hope you will appreciate this article, whatever your opinion of his argument. John Sutherland brings us back to the discussion of 'Japanization' in Britain and offers an opportunity to consider the recurring theme of diffusing an efficient management/production system across cultures. The third paper, by Andrew Tylecote and Jing Cai, sheds light upon the most important issue of Chinese management, the 'corporate governance' of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and Natenapha Wailerdsak and Akira Suehiro follow this with an examination of top executives' origins and the potential implications for managerial effectiveness in a comparative perspective of Japan and Thailand. Finally, Ingrid Bonn, Toru Yoshikawa and Phillip H. Phan take a similar theme, but turn their focus on the characteristics of boards and how this may relate to firm performance in Japan and Australia.

During the past 2 years, more than 80 papers have been submitted to ABM. Perhaps understandably in view of their economic standing, Japan and China have been best represented, but we would like to see more papers from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and India so that ABM may present a wider perspective on issues across the region.

To conclude, may I take this opportunity to thank contributors, subscribers and editorial/advisory board members for their strong support in 2003; and a particular 'thank you' to our reviewers, for all their work in support of ABM. I look forward with gratitude in anticipation of your continuing support.

Harukiyo Hasegawa
General Editor