



Editorial

Asian Business & Management (2006) 5, 5-7. doi:10.1057/palgrave.abm.9200157

As flowers begin to bloom and warm spring sunlight revives life around us, it is as ever a pleasure to issue a welcome to another fresh volume of *ABM*. It is, too, a pleasure to bring you an edition which is special in two respects: first, it commemorates our fifth year of existence, and for this success a vote of thanks is due to our contributory authors and subscribers; and second, in that this is a special issue, focusing on a discussion concerning agendas and methods within Asian management studies.

To start with, however, we are pleased to note that *ABM* is showing particularly encouraging development not just as a hard-copy journal, but as a valuable presence on the Internet. The most recent summary available at the time of writing shows that the *ABM* website received 8,450 visits in 2004, at a monthly average of 704; in all, 24,376 pages were accessed and we had 4,673 new visitors over the year. Geographically, our on-line visitors were from over thirty countries in Europe and nearly forty countries in Asia. In the journal itself, the breakdown of our authors' geographical origins show that 45.4 per cent come from Asia, 34.9 per cent from Europe and 12.8 per cent from North America (6.6 per cent from elsewhere in the world).

These figures suggest how *ABM* has grown and become recognized as a significant academic journal, mainly in Asia and Europe, but with a real prospect of rapid increase in North America, a development which we expect to have become apparent in our next progress report. This shows how more and more readers in our field are beginning to appreciate the role and voice of *ABM* in contributing not just to the bank of knowledge and insight from within Asia, but in developing theories, ideas and thereby the epistemology of business and management realities.

In the area of indexing, *ABM* is now indexed quite extensively, including ABI/INFORM from ProQuest, the Bibliography of Asian Studies, Emerald Management Reviews (as of 2004), Glocom Platform (Japan), INSPEC (IEE), International Bibliography of Social Sciences, IBZ International Bibliography of Periodical Literature and the IBR International Bibliography of Book Reviews of Scholarly Literature on the Humanities and Social Sciences. In addition, our publisher, editor and editorial board are working assiduously to secure ISI (SCCI) recognition in the near future.



What about the development of *ABM* values or ethos? We started life as an independent journal without affiliation to any particular society or institution, but since then we have developed flexible and friendly associations with four prestigious societies in Japan, Euro-Asia and North America. We have, happily, been successful in developing synergetic effects in promoting our activities and networks; hence, our voice on Asia comes from within, and we are able to publish quality papers rooted in Asian contexts by both Asian and Western scholars.

By extension, our perspective incorporates not only functional approaches, but also those that reflect social relations or other pertinent factors in Asian business and management affairs — we are always interested in interdisciplinary perspectives. *ABM* aims to broaden the frontiers of business studies by investigating them as phenomena and processes of human activities. Issues like human rights, environment, peace and war, democracy, culture and gender and community are in our view important as reflections of business and management activities. The number of papers in the above context have begun to increase and will do so further in the future.

In 2006–2007 we have planned several special issues along the lines touched upon above. This issue is in fact the first of these; it will be followed, though not consecutively, by other issues guest-edited by the Association of Japanese Business Studies (AJBS), Japan Academy of Labour and Management (JALM), International Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility, Nottingham Business School and Japan Society and Business Administration (JSBA).

This issue, entitled ‘Developing Agendas and Methods on Asian Business and Management Studies’, emerges from the Kyoto International Business Forum held in September, 2005. My sincere thanks go to Doshisha Business School in Kyoto and the Institute for Technology, Enterprise and Competitiveness (ITEC) for organizing it. Thanks also are due to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), the Daiwa-Anglo Japanese Foundation, University of Sheffield (Chubu Fund) and EU Centre at Doshisha University for their financial support, and the Japan Society of Business Administration (JSBA). Potential agendas and methods for Asian business and management studies, and how an international journal such as *ABM* can contribute, were fruitfully discussed by participants.

The seven papers that follow derive mostly from presentations delivered at the Kyoto Forum (With the exception of the Hasegawa paper, originally presented at the annual conference of the Japan Society of Business Administration.), and reflect the lines along which leading international scholars are thinking. They include a very stimulating perspective paper by Ron Dore on business education, calling our attention to what is and what is not important in business education, and offering us a challenge to rethink what is taught in business schools. This is followed by two papers from North



America, two from Asia and two from Europe, reflecting not only geographical research trends, but also their authors' views on current research situations. These will surely serve to provoke thought about current and prospective research ideas and activities.

The North American perspective begins with Tung's review of North American management research, with her vision of future opportunities and developments. Lynn then looks critically at the influence of American managerial theories upon the style of Asia research and discusses some negative effects on the development of Asian management studies.

The Asian perspective is given by Lau and Hasegawa. Lau, discussing the possible contribution and potential of Asian-based studies to mainstream management studies, examines three possible areas of input: first, the application of theory in new contexts; second, the extension of theory in new contexts; and third, the development of new theories and constructs. Hasegawa, in a brief overview of management studies, concludes that research methods are dependent on the themes involved, arguing that business/management studies will develop in scope and method when they incorporate as part of their research field corporate consequences such as environment, human rights, poverty, residential environments, education, medical care, welfare and labour practices.

The European perspective is first provided by Redding and Witt, who argue the importance of investigating the contexts of business and apply this method to analyse and illuminate the Chinese state-owned enterprise system. The second European perspective is given by Loveridge, who discusses the usefulness of the institutional approach with a message about the need of multinationals to broaden perspectives from techno-nationalism to global partners in cross-national stewardship.

I hope, for those of you who were unable to make it to our symposium, that these papers will give you a flavour of the stimulating atmosphere of the debates over the three days, an energy which we hope to carry on into the future.

To conclude my editorial, I would like to thank again all those who have lent their support to *ABM* over the past year, and to thank particularly our peer reviewers for their time and expertise.

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