



Academy of International Business

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AIB President's Message on Travel Restrictions to the United States

February 8, 2017

Dear AIB Members,

I am writing to you as the President of the AIB to express concern about the implications of a recent Executive Order by the President of the United States on January 27, 2017 to ban foreign nationals from seven countries, including Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, from entering the United States for 90 days. As you are aware, although a U.S. district court judge suspended the ban a week later, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals asked both sides to file legal briefs before the court makes its final decision. However, what could happen afterwards remains in a state of flux. As a result, we still do not see a clear picture of the eventual outcome of the U.S. imposition of travel restrictions on individuals from those seven countries. Much confusion still remains over broader implications and future directions of the U.S. travel policy not only on foreign nationals entering the United States but also on U.S. residents who have visited those seven countries re-entering the United States.

The AIB is a premier academic organization consisting of more than 3,000 members from over 80 countries from around the world. As such, this policy confusion can affect many if not all AIB members. The AIB has received many messages of concern from its members over these U.S. policy changes. We are deeply concerned about the implications of these policy changes for our members, especially those scholars from the affected countries.

Because the AIB has a nonprofit charter, the AIB Executive Board is not permitted to make any political judgment on the U.S. travel policy. In addition, the AIB Bylaws specifically prevent us from taking an official position on political issues: *"To avoid the compromise of the intellectual integrity of its members as well as the independence and impartiality of the entire organization, the Academy shall not adopt a partisan position on any matter involving particularistic interests, either private or public."*

However, the members of the AIB Executive Board stand by our shared values of academic freedom, freedom of speech, cross-fertilization of research across national boundaries regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, and any other reason not related to scientific merit. We are committed to the philosophy of diversity, inclusion and the free exchange of ideas.



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The targeted travel ban by the U.S. government may be interpreted as part of a broader movement against unfettered globalization that has unleashed both economic booms and busts in the last 40 or so years. Such sentiment has been expressed not only in the United States but also in other countries. Thus, we are all faced with uncertainties about traveling to AIB conferences in many parts of the world. Despite such lingering uncertainties, AIB members should continue to nurture and support an environment that encourages the free expression and exchange of scientific ideas. We should promote equal opportunity and treatment for all our colleagues around the world. Any policy by any government that hinders our shared academic values is inconsistent with the AIB's shared vision and mission.

At the same time, we should view the current anti-globalization movement as an opportunity to re-visit the advantages and disadvantages of unfettered globalization in our own research agendas. Fortunately, because the AIB boasts members from a diverse set of academic disciplines, we can bring research from different theoretical lenses to bear on the implications of globalization vs. anti-globalization, not only on the nature of MNE strategies but also on government policy directions to offer solutions for the betterment of our global community.

We at the AIB Executive Board continue to be vigilant about various government policies that may affect our conference venues now and in the future. Our immediate attention is to the 2017 AIB Annual Meetings to be held in Dubai, UAE on July 2-5 this year. Although we are not anticipating any government policy change in any other country, we assure you that we will continue to keep you informed should anything occur. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions, we will be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued engagement in the shared vision of the AIB community.

Sincerely,

Masaaki "Mike" Kotabe
President
Academy of International Business

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