

Comments from the Editors

IN THIS ISSUE WE FOCUS ON THE AIB AND EMERGING MARKETS. The rise of emerging markets has changed the world's economic landscape and led to new and exciting international business research agendas that are focused on these markets. The Academy of International Business (AIB) has also shifted its focus to emerging markets as well as emerging market scholars and scholarship, by holding recent and upcoming annual meetings in a number of the largest and fastest growing emerging markets and, over the past years, publishing an increasing number of *JIBS* articles focused on emerging markets. The AIB is also engaging in emerging market outreach activities such as developing chapters and organizing JIBS paper development workshops in these markets, and supporting scholars from these markets.

In the first article, Robert Grosse, who served as president of the AIB over the past two years, provides a brief historical sketch about the Academy's initiatives in emerging markets, takes account of AIB's current emerging market outreach efforts, and discusses future AIB-related activities, opportunities and challenges in these markets. In their article "Investment for Development", Jeremy Clegg and Ram Mudambi reflect on a recent AIB initiative focused on emerging markets: a multidisciplinary academic conference that was held on October 15, 2014 as part of UNCTAD's World Investment Forum in partnership with the Academy of International Business, the Geneva Graduate Institute, the Society of International Economy and Law, and the European International Business Academy. This multidisciplinary conference brought together nearly 200 academics from around the world and provided a forum to discuss a common approach to the multifaceted, complex and crucial challenge of investment for development. The authors discuss six research areas related to investment and development, with the aim of encouraging policy oriented research, which were the focus of the discussions at the conference, and propose some avenues for future international business research in emerging markets that came out of these discussions.

In the third and fourth articles, Maria Alejandra Gonzalez-Perez and Helena Barnard—who attended the multidisciplinary academic conference as AIB-sponsored delegates from emerging markets—share their experiences, knowledge and insights gained from this meeting as well as reflect on the opportunities and challenges of attending the meeting. Maria Alejandra Gonzalez-Perez provides an overview of UNCTAD's new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will replace the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals that are expiring this year, and discusses several opportunities and challenges for international business scholars in the post-2015 development agenda. In her article titled "The Elephant That Didn't Get a Visa to Be in the Room", Helena Barnard, the Research Director of the Gordon Institute of Business Science at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, recounts the difficulties of getting a visa to participate in the multidisciplinary academic conference, which was held at UNCTAD's headquarters in Palais de Nations, Geneva. In so doing, Helena Barnard sheds light onto an issue that most scholars located in developed countries take for granted: gaining regulatory authorization to travel around the world; and forwards some suggestions for how to manage this considerable challenge faced by scholars located in emerging markets.



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