

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



Daniel Rottig, Ph.D.,
Editor



John Mezias, Ph.D.,
Associate Editor

The past year has been an exciting one for *AIB Insights*. We published four very timely, interesting and relevant issues with highly insightful articles authored by AIB Fellows, including (in alphabetical order) Jean Boddewyn, Farok Contractor, Alvaro Cuervo-Cazurra, Pankaj Ghemawat, Yadong Luo, and Klaus Meyer, a number of highly accomplished and experienced authors as well as up-and-coming scholars. These issues included:

- a focused issue on ‘International Trade and Investment Agreements’ ([Vol. 16, Issue 1](#)), which discusses the controversies surrounding the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system in the context of recent international trade and investment agreements, and its implications for the sovereignty of nation-states in the 21st century, and so could not have been more timely given the recent backlash against globalization and a tendency toward protectionist and isolationist trade and investment policies by several governments around the world, including the new administration of the United States
- a focused issue on ‘Global Strategy and Emerging Markets’ ([Vol. 16, Issue 4](#)), which examines the environmental characteristics of emerging markets, juxtaposes the institutional features of emerging and advanced economies, and discusses the strategic implications for both emerging market multinational corporations as well as advanced market multinational corporations from various perspectives
- a focused issue on the ‘Peter J. Buckley and Mark Casson AIB Dissertation Award’ ([Vol. 16, Issue 3](#)), an annual focused issue series that we started in 2013 and that contributes to a timely dissemination of the latest, state-of-the-art dissertation research in international business by publishing extended abstracts of the award-winning and award nominated dissertations
- an eclectic issue ([Vol. 16, Issue 2](#)) which includes a set of highly relevant and interesting articles on topics ranging from the institutional environment of Russia and recent changes in the country and their impact on the local investment climate and entrepreneurial activities, tax evasion by multinational corporations and the importance of incorporating international tax issues in IB pedagogy, research, and strategy as well as technology-based international business simulations and suggestions for their effective use in the classroom

With this latter, eclectic issue, we started a new series of interactive lead articles, to which Jean Boddewyn and Pankaj Ghemawat contributed the first two articles (Volume 16, Issues 2 and 3, respectively) by asking important, topical, and insightful “BIG Questions” that are relevant to our field in an attempt to encourage our readership to respond to these authors and so create a fruitful dialogue and two-way communication on specific topics. To facilitate this effort, we have added an interactive “Comments” feature onto the *AIB Insights* webpage and encourage you to visit aib.msu.edu/publications/insights and actively participate in this conversation, which we will continue this year with an upcoming article by Andrew Delios.

Building on this great momentum, with this first issue of 2017, which commences the seventeenth year of publication of *AIB Insights*, we are excited to announce an entirely redesigned publication to better align *AIB Insights* with the publication portfolio of the Academy of International Business. *AIB Insights* continues to publish new, innovative, and path-breaking knowledge and ideas in its unique format of short, current, and thought-provoking articles that are free of professional jargon and technical terms, light on references, but heavy on insight from the authors’ experiences and research. *AIB Insights* has established itself as the publication that disseminates “ideas worth sharing” in international business research, education, and practice in a unique and accessible format, and we hope you enjoy our new design and interactive format of this publication, which is published by and for the AIB community.

In this first issue of Volume 17, we publish a focused issue on the Leadership Effectiveness in Africa and the African Diaspora (LEAD) research project. A total of 16 authors from 10 different countries contributed to this special issue, which was guest edited by Betty Jane Punnett, the founding editor of *AIB Insights*. In the first article, Betty Jane introduces the LEAD project and provides an overview of the articles published in this focused issue.

We hope you enjoy this focused issue and our newly redesigned publication. We look forward to an exciting year of 2017 and to receiving, publishing and so sharing your ideas in international business.

Go AIB, Go *Insights*!

Daniel Rottig

John Mezias