19 April, 2020

Dear Dr. Haili He,

I am shocked and dismayed to know that you are not planning to extend Dr. Calla Wiemer's contract as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Asian Economics (JAE) beyond this calendar year. I personally found Dr. Wiemer to be an exceptionally competent and dedicated Editor-in-Chief, constantly striving to improve the quality of the journal and extend its reach. In fact, my association with JAE is entirely due to the Dr. Wiemer's initiative. She invited me to come on board as an Executive Editor, specifically because she felt that India was under-represented in terms of publication in this journal. Since then, I have had many exchanges with her, discussing how to make the journal more visible in India and making efforts towards attaining that objective. More recently, Dr. Wiemer has been very proactive in getting some eminent economists to become members of the Advisory Council of the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies (ACAES), the parent organization that JAE is currently affiliated to. The list includes names like Maitreesh Ghatak (London School of Economics), Danny Quah (National University of Singapore), Larry Summers (Harvard University). Delinking JAE from ACAES would mean that the journal management would not be able to tap into this excellent source of academic and editorial knowledge base, which will really be detrimental to the interest of the journal. Indeed, under Dr. Wiemer's excellent editorial leadership, the Journal of Asian Economics has become one of the most promising outlets for Asia-centric research. It would be a pity if all of the social capital in terms of reputation and expertise are lost due to the imprudent decision of Elsevier to change the editorial board of JAE and in the process severe its links with Dr. Wiemer and the ACAES. I sincerely hope the Elsevier will reconsider its decision.

Sincerely,
MAUSUMI DAS
Executive Editor
Journal of Asian Economics