

More progress at *APJM*

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After celebrating our 25th anniversary in the last issue of 2007 (Peng, 2007a), *APJM* continues to make progress on a number of dimensions. Here I will cover six areas: (1) submission and rejection rates, (2) turnaround time, (3) conferences, (4) editorial retirement, (5) new Senior Editors, and (6) new Editorial Board members.

First, submission and rejection rates. During 2004, *APJM* received less than 100 submissions. In the most recent 12-month period that we tracked (July 1, 2006–June 30, 2007),¹ the number *doubled*—reaching 199 submissions. While this number was certainly a reflection of the general proliferation of Asia Pacific management research (see Leung, 2007), I believe it was also indicative of *APJM*'s solid reputation as the number one academic management journal that is in Asia, on Asia, and of Asia. Clearly, more and more authors realized that to establish one's reputation in the community of Asia Pacific management scholars, they needed to publish in *APJM*. So they increasingly submitted their work to *APJM*.

The editorial process for 173 of these submissions was completed (see Table 1). In the first round, we rejected 63% of them and invited 24% of authors to revise and resubmit. Overall, we rejected about 70% of the submissions. However, this number included all the invited papers that received a lucky “accept as is” decision in the first round (13.3% of them).² For *regularly submitted* papers, our rejection rate was approximately 80% during 2006–2007.

Second, turnaround time. As shown in Table 2, it took me on average 1.1 days to assign a paper to a particular editor (or to myself in some cases). I am especially proud to note that my editorial team accomplished some extraordinary speed in

¹The actual editorial transition from the previous Editor-in-Chief Andrew Delios to me took place on September 1, 2006. Officially, my editorial team and I started to appear on *APJM*'s letterhead as of the first issue of 2007.

²Our editors often work with these authors *offline* with multiple revisions. When our editors are satisfied, we ask authors of these invited pieces to submit online and then we “accept as is.”

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Table 1 Submission statistics

	Total decisions	Frequency of decision (%)	Average time to decision (days)
Original submissions			
Accept as is	23	13.3	
Major revisions needed	37	21.4	
Minor revisions needed	4	2.3	
Reject	109	63	
Total editor decisions	173	100	37.5
Revision 1			
Accept as is	4	16.7	
Major revisions needed	6	25	
Minor revisions needed	10	41.7	
Reject	4	16.7	
Total editor decisions	24	100	57
Revision 2			
Accept as is	8	53.3	
Major revisions needed	1	6.7	
Minor revisions needed	5	33.3	
Reject	1	6.7	
Total editor decisions	15	100	23.5
Revision 3			
Accept as is	6	100	
Total editor decisions	6	100	3.8

The total number of submissions between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 was 199. The review process for these 173 submissions was completed now

turnaround time: It only took us an average of 41.7 days (a little over one month) to reach a first editorial decision. While our editors deserve some kudos, our reviewers also deserve lots of kudos. They took only an average of 25.9 days to complete their work behind the scene. Overall, our turnaround time compares very favorably with the relatively slow speed of many other journals. In fact, I often advised my own PhD students *not* to bother editors of other journals on the status of submissions until after two to three months. *APJM's* turnaround speed probably made us the *best* in the world on this dimension—one more distinction as an “A” journal.

Third, conferences. In December 2006, in Tokyo, the Asia Academy of Management had its first main conference in Japan. In July 2007, in Xi'an, *APJM*

Table 2 Turnaround time

Submission to editor assignment	
Average number of days between the date the manuscript was received and the first editor was assigned	1.1
Submission to first decision	
Average number of days between the date the manuscript was received and the first decision	41.7
Days to complete review (from date agreed to review)	
Average number of days between date reviewer agreed to the review invitation and the date the review was completed	25.9

Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007

had its first special issue conference hosted by a mainland Chinese school—Xi'an Jiaotong University. Editorial work for the papers presented there for the special issue on innovation strategy in Asia (edited by Yuan Lu, Eric Tsang, and me) is proceeding as we speak. In December 2007, in Brisbane, Queensland University of Technology will host *APJM*'s first special issue conference in Australia, for a special issue on the varieties of capitalism (edited by Michael Carney, Eric Gedajlovic, and Xiaohua Yang). Further, in December 2008, in Kaohsiung, National Sun Yat-Sen University will host our first special issue conference in Taiwan, for a special issue on managing in ethnic Chinese communities (to be edited by David Ahlstrom and Kuang S. Yeh). This will be held right before the main Asia Academy of Management conference to be held in Taipei—the Calls for Papers for both the main AAOM conference in Taipei and the *APJM* special issue conference in Kaohsiung are printed at the end of this issue. In short, there is no shortage of interesting conferences for the *APJM* community.

Fourth, editorial retirement. Chung Ming Lau, founding President and current Secretary of the Asia Academy of Management (see Lau, 2007), expressed an interest in retiring from his Senior Editor position—an editorial position he occupied for six years. I asked him not to leave the journal completely and convinced him to join our Editorial Advisory Board. Chung Ming: Thank you so much for your dedicated services!

Fifth, new Senior Editors. I invited Eric Tsang (University of Texas at Dallas) and Chi-Sum Wong (Chinese University of Hong Kong) to join my team of Senior Editors, which they graciously accepted. So even after Chung Ming's retirement, we now have an expanded team of nine Senior Editors. Both Eric and CS are not only world-class scholars, but also long-time contributors to *APJM* as authors, reviewers, and Editorial Review Board members. I expect Eric to fill the area on organization theory and strategy vacated by Chung Ming and CS to strengthen our editorial expertise on the micro areas. Eric and CS: Welcome on board!

Lastly, five new members have joined our Editorial Review Board: Ping Ping Fu (Chinese University of Hong Kong), Anthony Goerzen (University of Victoria), Tony Tong (University of Colorado at Boulder), Steven White (CEIBS), and Kevin Zhou (University of Hong Kong). It is the combination of their *APJM* publications (as well as other top tier hits) and outstanding performance as reviewers that leads to their appointment. Welcome on board!

In conclusion, I am very pleased to report that the journal is in good health and making excellent progress. I have not touched another “burning” issue on the mind of many *APJM* stakeholders—SSCI (see Peng, 2007a, 2007b for some details). This is because as of this writing (October 1, 2007), there is no further development other than the status that we are still being evaluated. We applied for SSCI entry in 2006. Therefore, a pragmatic answer to the question, “Is *APJM* in SSCI yet?” is “Have you cited *APJM* articles in *your* own work recently?”

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Mike W. Peng (PhD, University of Washington) is the Provost’s Distinguished Professor of Global Strategy at the University of Texas at Dallas. As Editor-in-Chief, Professor Peng has raised the global profile of *APJM*, by recruiting top notch scholars to join our editorial boards, by attracting talented authors, and by telling everybody that *APJM* is an “A journal”—we start with “Asia,” that is an “A.”