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## Preface

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**Biographical notes:** Gary M. Cunningham is a Professor of Accounting at Jönköping International Business School, Jönköping University in Sweden. He received his PhD in Accounting from the University of Texas, Austin, USA. He has held academic positions at universities in the USA, Germany, Lebanon, Turkey and Sweden. His publications have been in the area of management control systems and financial reporting, with emphasis on multinational issues.

Lars G. Hassel holds a DSc (Econ & Bus) in Accounting from Åbo Akademi University in Finland, where he is a Professor of Accounting. He is also a Visiting Öhrlings' PricewaterhouseCoopers Professor of Accounting at Umeå School of Business in Sweden. Since 2006, he has been a Programme Director for the Sustainable Investment Research Programme at Mistra, the Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research in Sweden. He has had visiting positions in France, Malaysia and New Zealand and his main publications are on multinational accounting issues.

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When Professor Ahmed asked us to compile and edit a special edition of *Journal for Global Business Advancement* devoted to accounting issues, we eagerly accepted the challenge. It is almost trite to say that little did we know what we were getting into. While the process has taken many times longer than we first anticipated, we are pleased to present readers with interesting and provocative papers from a wide variety of authors on a wide variety of topics.

The first challenge we faced was to limit the scope of the papers to a manageable level. Following the objective of the journal of being a global platform to overcome barriers to global social and economic development, we solicited papers dealing with issues related to globalisation, broadly defined. With development being part of the objective, we encouraged submissions based on issues of developing economies, but did not limit our acceptance to this topic.

We introduce this special volume with a paper on accounting history, an insightful study by Fagerström and Lundh of both financial and management accounting development in the Nordic countries. The study begins at a time when most, if not all, of

the Nordic countries were arguably developing economies. The processes by which accounting systems developed in these countries provide useful perspectives for the development of accounting in today's developing economies.

The next group of papers deals with financial accounting and reporting issues. It begins with a study by Nilsson which also has some historical perspective as it explores the reasons for differences between US GAAP and traditional Swedish accounting standards. This paper also has perspectives for accounting standard setting processes in developing economies as they evolve towards some form of international conformity, whether to US GAAP or IFRS. This paper received the best paper award at the 2006 Accounting, Taxes and Audit Research Conference in Tallinn, Estonia.

The next paper, by Archambault and Archambault, uses quantitative analysis to determine how political, cultural and economic factors affect a country's successful adoption of IFRS. The study includes developing economies and provides useful insight about factors to be considered when adoption of IFRS is considered.

Continuing with the theme of global convergence of accounting standards, the next study by Akman, Simga-Muğan and Arkiboğa, explores experiences of companies in an emerging economy, Turkey, when they are required to adopt accounting standards that are very similar to IFRS.

In a paper that provides a transition from financial accounting to management accounting, Li and Jaggi examine whether the use of IFRS reduces the diversity of performance evaluation measures used internally by companies in eight countries. Most of the countries studied would be classified as developed economies, but the findings have implications for rapidly emerging economies as well.

The next group of papers covers management accounting topics, and begins with a study of performance measures used by state-owned enterprises by Ng, Lau and Southern. Even though the study is based in China, the findings should be meaningful for such enterprises in other emerging economies where state-owned enterprises are major factors in the economy.

Continuing with the management accounting theme, in the next paper, Li, Cable and Healy explore uses of contemporary management accounting techniques by companies in India, a major emerging economy, compared with companies in the USA. Their findings also provide information that should be useful for companies in other emerging economies.

The next two papers focus on management control systems. First, Hoffjan and Weide explore German multinational companies and circumstances that affect their decisions to standardise management control systems across countries, including developing countries. The next paper, by Porporato, explores management control of joint ventures, an increasingly important business structure when multinational companies enter emerging economies. Despite the importance of joint ventures in multinational business activity, especially in emerging economies, this topic has not been considered extensively before.

The last pair of papers studies corporate governance issues, one of the current topics affecting many countries, especially developing countries. The paper by He and Ho considers whether the use of an Anglo-Saxon model of corporate governance is effective in Asian countries. As such, it explores a common situation in developing countries, the automatic adoption of Anglo-Saxon models in developing countries. The paper by Harris has a comprehensive set of case studies of corporate governance in Latin American companies using World Bank data. It represents a major follow-on study that analyses

and draws conclusions on a topic of global interest as represented by the World Bank's interest in corporate governance in developing economies.

We thank all people who contributed to this special edition, including authors who submitted abstracts and papers that were not eventually accepted. We especially thank the reviewers of the papers, without whom this issue would not be possible.

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