

FOREWORD

Much of this issue of the ABAC Journal is concerned with the crucial areas of economic and political life. These areas are, of course, critically important to all of us and well within the scope of the Journal's mandate. The authors offer substantial insight into our world and how larger events affect our lives. We should all be thankful for their good efforts and for their generosity in sharing their ideas and research with the larger community outside their field of specialization.

I have noticed in recent issues, however, something of an absence of submissions by our friends and colleagues in the humanities. Philosophers, students of art and literature, historians, and other humanists also have much to offer to the general academic community but have been little heard from recently on these pages. I would like, therefore, to ask the many humanists among our readership to consider sharing your work with this audience. I think that you will find it to be very responsive to your ideas and very open to the perspectives you offer.

Two of the illuminating articles in this issue present Jane Jila Simmons's research on China and its relation to the rest of the world. In her first article she discusses Japan's development aid to China. Despite China's rapid economic progress and Japan's extended recession the author recommends that the aid be continued as a means of cementing the relationship between the countries, which often have been at odds with each other in the past. In her second article the concern is for the larger issues of China's relationship with the world. China has increasingly been seeking to be a partner of the international community, but also has faced issues of human rights and governance that have somewhat impeded its acceptance. Jane Simmons finds progress on these and other fronts and in any event suggests that advances in communication may ensure that China cannot remain isolated from the rest of the world.

The concept of connectivity can also be traced in Isaac G. Mathews' article in which he discusses the costs and benefits of internet investing, suggesting that for all of its limitations this advance provides investors with a new way of active participation in their financial well-being.

Connectivity is not entirely a property of the new technology. The ability to speak and read languages other than one's native language provides an unparalleled way of achieving contact between peoples within the diplomatic arena. Focusing on United Nations and UNESCO work in this area, Dr. Ioan Voicu discusses the nature of multilingualism and its importance to a multicultural world.

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