



December 2010

Dear fellow SEAANZ member,

As we approach the holiday season and the end of the calendar year, the International Executive Committee felt you may appreciate an update on our recent progress in continuing to enhance your association and to alert you to forthcoming events and activities.

- Your journal, *Small Enterprise Research*, is now emerging from a period of focused rejuvenation. Our partner, eContent Management has now assumed the publication and marketing of the journal. All details about calls for papers, submission processes and scheduled publications etc. are available at <http://ser.e-contentmanagement.com/>. The first issue of *Small Enterprise Research* under this new publication arrangement (Volume 17, No. 1) is currently in print for imminent release and details of the content (featuring a special section on public policy and enterprise development edited by Francis Greene and David Storey) is available on the web site. Also available is a complete list of the current editorial board who continue to provide the voluntary service so necessary for this primary asset of SEAANZ to continue to flourish. We would like to take this opportunity to thank on your behalf those that provide these services.
- Also emerging from a series of editorial changes is the other journal we receive through our affiliate status with the ICSB. A perusal of the editorial team detail (see <http://www.icsb.org/jsbm.asp>) indicates that SEAANZ members are well represented on the voluntary boards that also support that journal.

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- Our experiment with small highly focused research forums (the purpose of which is to narrow the gap between SME research, practice and policy making) was deemed to be a great success by the thirty plus participants at the first forum in Melbourne in November. Thanks to Kate Lewis (Massey University), Beth Walker (Edith Cowan University) and John Breen (Victoria University) for their organization. Further forums will be announced next year.
- Your international executive committee also continues to explore opportunities for members to participate in a range of conferences. We are discussing a level of involvement in an education preconference at the AGSE Entrepreneurship Research Exchange (<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/business/agse/conference/entrepreneurship-research-exchange/>) in Melbourne next February and possibly in a policy focused preconference at the successor conference currently scheduled for Perth in 2012. The ICSB world conference is in Stockholm in June 2011 (<http://www.icsb2011.org/>) and of course we are co hosting the 2012 conference with Massey University in Wellington, NZ (preliminary information at <http://www.icsb2012.org.nz/>). We are also exploring another cooperative arrangement with Australia's leading business incubation, support and training organizations - Business Innovation and Incubation Australia (BIIA), Business Enterprise Centres Australia (BEC Australia) and the National NEIS Association (NNA) – in again co hosting a conference in September 2011. Finally, a visit to the upcoming events link on the ICSB web page (<http://www.icsb.org/>) will reveal details of a range of other conferences hosted by other ICSB affiliates and available to members.
- Many of you will have recently received advice about the continued push to form a new association - the Australian Entrepreneurship Research Association (AERA). As indicated before (if you did not receive an emailed letter from the President in November, see the news item “Board response to attempts to form a new association” at <http://www.seanz.org/>), if you compare the stated aims of this proposed association with those of SEAANZ you will notice the only substantive difference appears to be a focus

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by the proposed association on entrepreneurship research whereas SEAANZ continues to focus more broadly on small enterprise based research and practice. The International Executive Committee do acknowledge that it may be time to develop special interest groups, such as an entrepreneurship research group, within SEAANZ and we will be exploring options for group structures and operations early in the new year. We also recognize the right of the promoters to seek to establish this new association. However, given the strength of our history and our current linkages, we believe SEAANZ remains the logical membership choice for researchers, educators, practitioners, and policy makers who are dedicated to the support of the Australasian small enterprise business community. We are sure you share our belief and that you will join us in promoting membership of SEAANZ at every available opportunity.

While many of the above activities do seem to have a primary focus on our researchers and educators we continue to be committed to broadening SEAANZ's relevance to its four membership 'pillars' - Researchers; Educators; Practitioners; and Policy Makers - in support of the Australasian small enterprise business community.

In conclusion, on behalf of the International Executive Committee, let me wish you all the complements of the season and I look forward to our ongoing cooperation in 2011 as we continue to advance entrepreneurship and small enterprise regionally and worldwide.

Yours sincerely



Professor Brian Gibson

President of SEAANZ

On behalf of the International Executive Committee

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