

Introduction

The Institute of International Business of the University of Gdańsk has the honour of presenting you with yet another, fifth issue of *International Business and Global Economy*, a successor continuing the forty-year-old tradition of an earlier publication entitled *The Working Papers of the Institute of International Business*. The present title's acronym is IBage, which stands for "International Business Age", and isn't this what our times are? With every passing decade we are realising just how important international business is. Today, we can't imagine business confined within the borders of a single country or tied to a single economy.

This year's edition of IBage celebrates a special occasion for four of our Institute's professors, to whom this issue is dedicated. Their 70th birthdays coincide with an anniversary marking fifty years of their commitment to the Faculty of Economics of the University of Gdańsk or its predecessor – the Higher School of Economics, which laid the foundations for our faculty.

Professor Bohdan Jeliński, Professor Danuta Marciniak-Neider, Professor Janusz Neider, and Professor Dorota Simpson are very special and dedicated scholars who have been with us all these decades. Over the years, they have enriched the Institute with their valuable knowledge and skills as organisers and educators – for it is true that anyone wishing to work in an academic environment should excel in three areas: scholarship, management, and education. This is exactly what our Professors are like. Each of them has scaled the academic heights. All of them have served the Institute as its directors and done their best to make it thrive. All are respected and well liked.

On this day, the entire staff of the Institute of International Business would like to offer heart-felt respect and gratitude to our Professors for being able to draw on their extensive knowledge and experience, to thank them for showing the right path, for being an inspiration in our research work, and for so many years of keeping us company. On this special day, I would like to wish the honourable Professors, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, many years of good health, further success in scholarly pursuits and, most importantly, the best of luck.

This has been a year full of political and economic events; a year in which we need to reflect on what is happening around us; another period of analysis and research to add to the existing body of knowledge, so that we can draw the right conclusions and foresee what the future holds in store for us.

This year's publication consists of two parts – the first is dedicated to our honourable Professors, while the second comprises twenty articles divided into three thematic sections. The first section relates to the challenges facing the global economy, with articles discussing networking, innovativeness, and global banking regulations. The second section is composed of papers addressing trade and finance. The third section contains articles speaking about the issues related to enterprises in the modern global economy.

With every year, our publication is reaching a growing audience due to the fact that it features articles written in English (65% of the entire content this time). We are pleased that we can be an outlet for the research work of not only the Institute's own staff but also increasingly for Polish and foreign scholars from partner institutions. Our journal is making its name and becoming well known in the academic community, which makes us very happy.

I do hope that IBage will provide you with inspiration for further research work.

Prof. Ewa Oziewicz
Head of the Institute of International Business
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