

Endorsement for Journal of China and International Relations (JCIR)

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We are delighted to be able to endorse the timely inauguration of this JCIR as the two dimensions of the Research Center on Development and International Relations (DIR) evolve: in a world of both BRICS and PIIGS, as regional divergencies increase, both development and international relations are in flux. We first taught at Aalborg University (AAU) at the start of the new millennium, as Li Xing was completing his PhD and before Goldman Sachs had popularised the acronym BRICs for the emerging markets. A decade later, DIR has specializations in China and Latin America and a joint research center with University of International Relations (UIR) in Beijing. And Li Xing is not only a professor now but his first 2010 Ashgate title on *The Rise of China and the Capitalist World Order* is being translated into Chinese and being revised and reissued in a paperback edition.

AAU and DIR are to be congratulated on facilitating this refereed interdisciplinary bilingual online journal; such technology reduces any distance which such a global program may feel in North Jutland. It also symbolises the possibilities of globalization when several of Denmark's leading industries are increasingly dependent on rapidly growing markets in China: container shipping, medical drugs especially insulin for diabetes, pork products etc. And Li Xing's latest, coedited collections are on China and the semi-periphery and China and Africa. Symptomatically, the 2013 edition of the *Human Development Report* from UNDP is on "The Rise of the Global South: human progress in a diverse world" (www.hdr.undp.org).

We have been pleased to host DIR faculty and PhD candidates at our new PhD program at UMass Boston on Global Governance and Human Security and look forwards to being so hosted again in Aalborg and hopefully in Beijing. Our postgraduates should be on the cutting edge of analysis; JCIR will help them be in the *avant garde*. No one perspective or "school" has a monopoly in terms of understanding the contemporary global political economy, characterised by burgeoning "varieties of capitalism", as indicated by a range of reports at the

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turn of 2012/3 from the USNIC, OECD, PWC, Chatham House etc. As the latter argues in 'Resources Futures' (p 8) (www.resourcesfutures.org):

The political economy of natural resources is increasingly shaped by the large structural shifts under way in the world...the rebalancing of global income and power. The world must now contend not just with growing environmental threats such as climate change and water scarcities, but also with the shift in consumer power from West to East, concentration of resource ownership and the rise of state capitalism.

Such issues resonate in BRICs like China and Brazil, but in turn also in Denmark and the EU, especially its eurozone. They inform debates about what is "emerging": economies, regional powers, states and/or societies. So JCIR is being launched at an exciting time when we should all be rethinking assumptions and directions. We are confident that it will advance such informed debate about analyses and policies as the UN is already considering development desiderata post-2015 after the MDGs.

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