

## Editor's Note

Francesco Ciampi

The 8<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Business & Economics was held at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Florence in the month of October 2008. This international conference was organized by the Association for Business & Economics Research, together with the Department of Business Sciences of the University of Florence, and sponsored by the *International Journal of Business & Economics* and the *Oxford Journal*.

Business academics and economists from universities and business schools in fifty different countries around the world (representing every continent) presented their most recent research findings, most of which unpublished. The papers had been selected on the basis of a double blind peer review process carried out by the scientific committee of the conference. During the thirty-six conference sessions, 140 papers were presented and discussed. They dealt with various areas of business and economics (strategic management, finance, marketing, accounting, business ethics, business law and others), and focused on a range of industrial sectors and services (from the banking sector to the oil industry, from textile production to automobile manufacturing).

This monograph, edited by myself, consists of a selection of the papers presented at the conference. It was not easy to choose among all the contributions. I selected papers on the basis of two fundamental criteria: disciplinary representativeness and content originality. More specifically, I aimed, on the one hand, to offer a selection that was as representative as possible of the numerous disciplinary areas covered during the conference and, on the other hand, to include contributions that I considered to be particularly interesting and/or innovative with respect to the state of the art of their research topics.

I would like to thank, first and foremost, Prof. Atul Gupta of Lynchburg College (Virginia, USA) for granting me the honor of co-chairing with him such a prestigious

conference and for having chosen the Faculty of Economics of the University of Florence as the conference venue. Special thanks also go to Prof. Giampiero Nigro (Dean of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Florence) and to Prof. Francesco Giunta (Chair of the Department of Business Sciences of the University of Florence) for their personal encouragement (in addition to their logistic and organizational support), which proved crucial to the successful outcome of the conference. Finally, I thank Prof. Carlo Vallini who, also in this occasion, has been an irreplaceable point of reference.

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