

## Editor-in-Chief's introductory note

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Our contemporary world is highly interconnected. There are multiple interactions between states, businesses, and people. In such circumstances, long-term goals of sustainable economic development cannot be achieved by a single actor, even a major one. A combination of diverse resources and competencies plays a crucial role in the making of the winners of the future. That's why partnerships at all levels, including collaborative alliances of countries, are just as important as competition.

Strengthening coordination and cooperation among the BRICS countries (China, Russia, Brazil, India, and South Africa) is one of the most impressive examples. These five countries together are the largest emerging markets in the world. BRICS is now taking on a constantly growing geopolitical role that stimulates a global shift in power, both politically and economically.

BRICS countries, which are transforming from regional leaders into the major players on the global arena, vary greatly, ranging from their size and population to their institutional environment. At the same time, many aspects of their economic development are not familiar to academics and practitioners from other countries, even to those from the five BRICS countries themselves. The world economic and business society needs a deeper understanding of the BRICS countries' specifics and a more broad knowledge about prospects that emerge in these economies.

The BRICS Journal of Economics (BJoE) starts its work in the year of the Russian BRICS Chairmanship – 2020, in which the main emphasis is on the five countries' cooperation in the field of digital transformation, as well as on boosting the role of sustainable and inclusive development agenda. It is a quarterly peer-reviewed journal that serves as a platform for encouraging research on internationally significant economic issues of middle-income developing countries, primarily BRICS countries. It was founded by the Faculty of Economics of Lomonosov Moscow State University, which holds high positions in the world ratings and has extremely broad partnerships with many leading universities all over the world.

The journal's objectives are to expand knowledge about contemporary economic trends in the BRICS countries, theoretical approaches and relevant academic studies that shed light on economic developments within the BRICS countries, their joint economic activities, and the role and position of BRICS in the world economy. It welcomes original

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research papers that present outcomes of initiatives and findings in all fields of economy and management in these countries. The scope of research includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- conceptual/practical approaches and methodologies of revealing characteristics of developing economies
- clarification of particular features intrinsic to developing economies, especially the BRICS countries
- development of approaches to boosting entrepreneurship, innovations, as well as cooperative behavior in and between developing economies
- assessing and determining the impact of economic policies on developing countries.

Independent quality control of our editorial policy is guaranteed by the International Editorial Board composed of eminent professors from different countries engaged in research in middle-income developing economies, primarily in the BRICS countries.

The first issue of BJoE contains five manuscripts written by ten authors located in different countries and affiliated with five different universities.