

Report from Academy of International Business, Canada Chapter

Introduction

The Canada Chapter had a very productive year. Member participation was record high at the recent ASAC annual conference in Ottawa. With the support from international renowned scholars such as Paul Beamish, Shakar Zahra and Alain Verbeke, our program has become one of the most popular in the Canadian management academia. We have also successfully launched the Chapter Newsletters during the year and made effort to create a community practice among members.

Current and Incoming Officers (with Contact information)

H. Xiaohua Lin will continue to serve as the Chair of the Chapter.

Summary of Membership

The International Business Division of the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada, which represents the Chapter, has currently 100 members.

Summary of Financial Status

The Chapter does not have any financial engagement.

Summary of Meetings Held in 2007

Jointly with the ASAC IB Division, the Chapter had its 2007 program at the annual conference ASAC in Ottawa on June 2-5 2007. Brigitte Levy and Scott Ensign, both Chapter executive members, chaired the Conference Program and Doctorial Consortium, respectively. There were more than 100 registered members at the conference. Among 30 submissions, 16 papers were accepted for presentation and 4 papers were sent to the Entrepreneurship & Family Business Division due to time slot constraints. In total we received 7 submissions in French (5 accepted) and 23 in English (11 accepted). Five papers were (co)authored by students.

Our program started with Professor Shaker Zahra's (University of Minnesota) distinguished speech on current status and future direction of international new venture research. The speech, jointly sponsored with the Entrepreneurship & Family Business Division, attracted a large audience from our members as well as members of other divisions. The speech was not only informative but also timely as many Canadian scholars have started working at the intersection of international business and entrepreneurship. Professor Zahra's speech was immediately followed by another invited talk by Alain Verbeke (University of Calgary). Professor Verbeke revisited 15 Harvard Business Review Classics and crafted a new conceptual framework concerning global corporate success. This review and new conceptualization are summarized in a forthcoming, highly anticipated book by Alain.

The program also included two panel sessions. The first panel, titled “Role of diaphora returnees and Canadian emigrants as transnational connecting agents”, provided an undated account of immigrant transnational business activities. Using examples from China, Africa and Canada, three panellists explained the unique role of immigrants as agents of international business, discussed immigrants’ advantages and disadvantages for immigrants to engage in international and homeland business activities, especially new venture creation, and discussed the political, societal, and cultural implications of immigrant transnational business engagement. The second panel discussed challenges of cross-cultural knowledge management, performance management, and social responsibility in developing countries from three perspectives. The heated debates during the panel discussion suggested that, despite accumulated research effort, scholars have to do more to keep up with the pace of changes in the developing and emerging markets.

Through Mary Han, the ASAC IB Division Chair, the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University sponsored award plaques for Best Reviewers for IB division (total 8) and PhD students to attend the joint divisional dinner with the Entrepreneurship Division as a networking opportunity with senior scholars and peers around the world.

Plan for Future Meetings

We have formed the executive team for our next program at the ASAC 2008 annual conference. The conference will be held at Halifax and sponsored by the Dalhousie University. The executive team includes Scott Ensign (University of Ottawa), Ronald Camp II (Regina University), and Shih-Fen Chen (University of Western Ontario).

Other Initiatives

Launch of Chapter Newsletter

The AIB Canada Chapter/ASAC IB Division Newsletters was launched last December (see attached). It is sponsored by the International Research Institute at Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University.

Future Plans

Besides continuing to develop our successful programs at ASAC, the Chapter will make a major effort to increase AIB membership. Our focus will be those Canadian scholars who are ASAC IB Division members but have not joined AIB. Based on member feedback, we are also looking for ways to improve our Newsletters.

H. Xiaohua Lin

Chair of the Academy of International Business Canada Chapter

Ted Rogers School of Management
Ryerson University