World business is undergoing a rapid shift as business and entrepreneurship in the long-dominant economies of Europe and North America are increasingly being challenged by business and entrepreneurship from Asian countries such as China, India and others (Hoskisson, Eden, Lau, & Wright, 2000; Bruton, Filatotchev, Si, & Wright, 2013; Wu, Si, Chen, & Castro, 2019). The rise of Asian economies has encouraged much study of how those economies (and their firms) grew so briskly while inspiring others in the developing world (Berger & Hsiao, 1988; Carney, Gedajlovic, & Yang, 2009; Fallows, 1995; Ramo, 2004; Seagrave, 1995). For instance, China has become the world’s second largest economy in a mere three decades, and entrepreneurship has been identified as a key driver of China’s fast growth (Huang, 2010). Today, more and more Asian countries have moved from predominantly necessity-based entrepreneurship to entrepreneurship that is more opportunity-based (Suddaby, Bruton, & Si, 2015). Asian entrepreneurs have begun to set their sights on international opportunities (Lin & Si, 2014; Wu & Ma, 2016). On the other hand, despite the backdrop of a thriving entrepreneurial economy, many Asian countries have been experiencing an economic slowdown recently, with increased inequality and worsening unilateralism in trade policy (Wu & Si, 2018).

Clearly, the changes in Asian entrepreneurship present a lot of puzzling questions for which the growing literature on Asian entrepreneurship still has no answers (Wu, Si, & Wu, 2016; Zhou & Peng, 2010). Unfortunately, the existing body of research deals disproportionately with entrepreneurship in Europe and North America, despite entrepreneurial activity in Asian economies having some unique features (Austin, Stevenson, & Wei-Skillern, 2006). Conventional studies tend to fall into the habit of applying the Western perspectives, which seems less appropriate for examining Asian-based entrepreneurship through an indigenous lens (Bruton, Zahra, & Cai, 2017). Taking context more seriously will significantly advance the theoretical understanding of entrepreneurship in general (Johns, 2006). Moreover, despite the growing importance of entrepreneurship for economic growth, how entrepreneurship drives economic and social development as well as sustainability in this region remains little-understood. Answering these questions should help untangle the complexities of entrepreneurship in the changing environment of Asian business. More systematic and in-depth research is much needed into many such issues for a better understanding of entrepreneurship in
Asia, in particular better taking into account Asian contexts (Carney, Gedajlovic, & Yang, 2009; Su & Si, 2015).

This special issue will expand scholarly understanding of the nature of entrepreneurship in Asian economies, documents its antecedents and consequences, and provide first-hand information about Asian entrepreneurship in practice. Contributions which develop theories potentially useful in future research will also be welcome. Qualitative and/or quantitative methodologies and novel theoretical lenses are encouraged. Scholars are also encouraged to consider various units of analysis, including institutions, large and established firms, new ventures, and individual entrepreneurship. We encourage scholars to study major regions such as China and India and also smaller countries such as Myanmar or Nepal, which have received limited research attention. The following are some of the areas on which the special issue will focus, but others will also be considered for inclusion.

1. What are the impacts of formal and informal institutions on entrepreneurship?
2. How does entrepreneurship encourage Asian citizens toward responsible behavior?
3. How does entrepreneurship correct market failures? Does it help to remove counterproductive subsidies, and/or support important public infrastructure?
4. How does entrepreneurship create jobs in Asia? What are the regional differences in its consequences?
5. What are the implications of entrepreneurship for both the speed and scale of gains from institutional, policy, economic and legal incentives?
6. What are the impacts of social capital, political ties and the internet on entrepreneurship in Asia?
7. How does entrepreneurship help to reduce poverty?
8. How can entrepreneurial incentives help meet the need for global sustainability solutions and for addressing other critical challenges? What is the role of social entrepreneurship in setting public policy in Asia?
9. What is the role of sustainability in Asian entrepreneurship?
10. Does mixed private/public ownership generate positive economic impact in society?
11. Does the greater risk in Asian economies promote entrepreneurial creativity? And does that percolate throughout society or apply only to those who are taking such risks?
12. Which institutional factors are critical for success in entrepreneurship in Asia?
13. Which macroeconomic and smaller-scale factors are most influential in encouraging a long-term orientation among Asian entrepreneurs?
14. What are the processes and approaches most important for entrepreneurial growth and entrepreneurial exit in Asia?
15. What is the impact of cultural and other institutions on risk-taking in Asian entrepreneurship?
16. Does entrepreneurship improve participation in social sustainability projects in Asia and beyond? What are the entrepreneurial solutions for sustainability?
17. What are the differences between Asian forms of entrepreneurship and the most common forms elsewhere? Papers comparing, for example, vegetable-growing entrepreneurs in Asia with those in Africa and South America are welcome.

Submission Process
To be considered for the special issue, manuscripts must be submitted to
Submitted papers will be reviewed through a double-blind peer review process. For enquiries, please contact Jie Wu at jiewu@umac.mo or sixiaofu@zju.edu.cn. We welcome your submissions.

References

