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## Article Editorial

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## HEIDI C. SHERMAN, EDITOR OF THE CESIFO FORUM, RETIRES

When Hans-Werner Sinn became president of the Ifo Institute for Economic Research in 1999, he wanted to give a face-lifting to existing Ifo publications and to add new journals with an international orientation, to be published in English and be distributed to a world-wide audience of academics, public and private policymakers and the general public. The first such journal was the quarterly CESifo Forum, and I was chosen as its editor. I had sole responsibility for the CESifo Forum until the end of 2006 when I retired from the position of editor, continuing in a consulting function to my successor for the first two issues of 2007. Now that my time is really up, I would like to take a look back at the seven years at the helm of the CESifo Forum.

The first issue of the CESifo Forum was published in the spring of 2000, containing papers on labour market problems in Germany that had been presented at the first CESifo Symposium held on the event of the Ifo Institute's 50th anniversary. The authors included the Nobel laureate Robert Solow (MIT), Giuseppe Bertola (University of Turin) as well as Michael Burda (Humboldt University Berlin) and Wolfgang Franz, (President of the Center for European Economic Research, Mannheim).

All following issues of the CESifo Forum have addressed topical issues of international interest, the stated objective of this publication. They have also kept up the objective of soliciting authors of international renown. These included, in addition to those mentioned above, Allan Meltzer (Carnegie Mellon University), Alan S. Blinder (Princeton), Frank Levy (MIT), Barry Eichengreen (Berkeley), Dale Jorgenson (Harvard), John Williamson (Peterson Institute), Bob Litan (Brookings Institute), Michael Jensen (Harvard Business School), Richard Cooper and Jeffrey Frankel (Harvard), Nouriel Roubini (NYU), Charles McLure (Stanford), Paul De Grauwe (Leuven), Daniel Gros (CEPS), Niels Thygesen (Copenhagen), Peter Neary (Dublin), Torben Andersen (Aarhus), Assar Lindbeck (Stockholm), Iain Begg (LSE), T. Padoa-Schioppa and

Otmar Issing (formerly ECB), as well as past and present EU Commissioners and many more.

The topics dealt with in the period 2000 to 2006 featured The Euro, International Architecture, Eastern EU Enlargement, the New Economy, Pensions, Subsidiarity, Corporate Governance, Japan in Crisis, Tradable Permits, Outsourcing/Offshoring, Germany – 15 Years After Unification, China: A New Global Player, Sustainability of the US Current Account Deficit, Enlargement of the Euro Area, Energy Security, Mergers & Acquisitions, and others.

I can truly say that I enjoyed my seven years as editor of the CESifo Forum (and a total of 22 years as a fellow at the Ifo Institute). It is with a sigh of relief that I am leaving for the joys of a pensioner's life but also with teary eyes as I shall miss the contact with the authors from the first note of solicitation to the final version of the paper. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the authors who so generously contributed to this journal and helped make it what it is today. And I shall also miss working with my technical team who good-naturedly put up with late papers, poor pictures and numerous rounds of revisions. It was great fun while it lasted. My thanks go to Elisabeth Will for her patience in typesetting, formatting, paging and repaging, to Inge Kunz for turning numbers, often incomplete, into pretty Ifo graphs, and last but not least to Elsitä Walter who collected and updated all the statistics and did the graphs for the Trends section, frequently sacrificing a weekend.

As of January 2007, Chang Woon Nam has taken over the editorship of the CESifo Forum. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna and has been with the Ifo Institute, in the Department of Public Finance, since 1989. I wish him the best of luck in his added responsibility. I am certain that he will fill the CESifo Forum with interesting papers and will keep his readers well informed on issues of current economic concern.

With my best wishes to all of you, authors and readers,

Heidemarie C. Sherman