



Editorial Note

It is with great pleasure that we announce the *Asian Journal of Applied Economics* (AJAE) has been classified as a Tier 1 journal under the Thai Citation Index (TCI) journal quality assessment. The TCI, a certified local agency responsible for evaluating the quality of Thai academic journals, plays a crucial role in accrediting and recommending Thai journals for international recognition, including potential inclusion in Scopus.

Our Tier 1 classification is effective for five years, from **January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2029**, and is based on our journal's performance during the **2021–2024** publication period. Over these years, we have worked diligently to align with TCI's evaluation criteria and recommendations. Key improvements include:

- **Standardizing referencing styles** for greater consistency.
- **Implementing a fully online journal management system** to enhance accessibility and efficiency.
- **Increasing the number of articles per issue**, currently at eight, though TCI recommends ten.
- **Rebranding the journal with a new title** to better reflect our scope and positioning.
- **Enhancing the journal's website** to prominently feature our new ISSN, updated title, journal policies, and other relevant information to improve accessibility and visibility.

While we take pride in these achievements, there is still room for growth. One key area for further improvement is increasing our citations within the TCI database. Although citations under Google Scholar have been on the rise, a significant portion of our published articles originate from international authors and are written in English. This may contribute to lower citation rates within Thai academic circles, as the content might be perceived as less directly relevant to local research interests.

Moving forward, we will be more selective in curating submissions to better align with the needs of researchers and readers in Thailand and Asia, ensuring that AJAE continues to serve as a vital platform for applied economic research with both local and regional relevance. Despite this, we continue to welcome submissions in both Thai and English. While our long-term goal is to enhance our international recognition, Thai articles with an extended English abstract are always encouraged, provided they meet our journal's standards and editorial policies. Additionally, we remain committed to supporting researchers by ensuring that there is no article processing fee (APC) at any stage of submission, review, or publication.

In this January-June 2025 issue, we present a collection of eight diverse studies covering a range of applied economic topics. Articles explore investment sentiment and wage dynamics in Thailand's Japanese business sector, the relationship between wealth and crime victimization, and the socioeconomic determinants of cybercrime costs across OECD countries. Additionally, this issue features research on multimarket competition in Turkish banking, the economic implications of fiscal policies in both closed and pandemic-affected economies, and the role of digital transformation in pollution reduction. Lastly, a study examines the impact of microcredit programs on poverty reduction in Thailand, offering insights into financial inclusion and household economic well-being.

We hope this issue will be of interest to you. This and all past issues would not have been possible without the continuous support of our editorial team, reviewers, authors, and readers. We extend our sincere gratitude for their dedication and commitment to the journal's success.

For those considering publication in Asian Journal of Applied Economics (AJAE), we encourage you to submit your manuscripts via our online journal system (ThaiJo). All articles are published under an open-access model, ensuring unrestricted access to research, and there are no fees at any stage of the publication process. For detailed author guidelines and submission instructions, please visit our official website.

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