

Remarks on Release of the Spanish Edition of *Theory of Accounting and Control*
Faculty of Economic Sciences
National University of Colombia
Bogota, Colombia
August 17, 2005

Dear Professor Edgar Bejarano, Homero Cuevas, Harold Alvarez, Luis Fernando Useche, distinguished members of the faculty of the economic sciences of the National University of Colombia, Nohora Garcia, graduate and undergraduate scholars, and guests:

I am honored and pleased to return to Bogota this week to be with you on the occasion of the release of the Spanish translation of my book, *Theory of Accounting and Control*. I am delighted that your support has made the publication of this volume possible, and that you have taken your precious time to grace this occasion. Thank you.

The framework of accounting is shared across many economies in the world today. While this sharing could be the result of independent but convergent evolution of accounting in different societies, direct transfer of concepts and practices through trade and education has also played an important role. Accounting systems evolve with organizational forms to fulfill the diverse demands of the latter. To the extent organizational forms converge, so do their accounting systems. This book is an attempt to understand the links between organizations and their accounting and control systems.

Observations inspire theories and theories direct and organize observations. Greater the scope of observations on which a theory can be based, more generalizable the theory becomes. Most of my personal experience is drawn from India and the United States. Confronting this theory of accounting and control with observations from a broad range of business environments and cultures will help make it more robust. Therefore, I was delighted to learn that the alumni of the doctoral program of the faculty of economic sciences of the National University of Colombia wished to introduce it to the Spanish readers.

In the Summer of 2003, I had the privilege to visit the National University of Colombia for the first time at the invitation of Dean Homero Cuevas. My conversations with the faculty and the students at the University, the Central Bank of Colombia, and Yogesh B. Sharma of the Indian Railways helped me learn about the accounting traditions of Spanish speaking countries, and of the problems of accounting and control in the business environment of Colombia. Unique features of socio-economic environments call for adaptation of both organizational forms as well as accounting methods. In varied conditions around the world, accounting systems can usefully combine such adaptation with an overarching framework to think about various forms of accounting.

My visits abroad sensitized me to the difficulty of translation. It is not easy to isolate thought from language. In the absence of exact correspondence among natural languages, taking ideas and thoughts from one language and society and expressing them in another language to another society is a demanding task. I owe Ms. Nohora Garcia,

Claudia Niño, Diego Hernandez, Andres Montaña, Manuel Muñoz, and Pedro Nel Paez a debt of gratitude for undertaking this challenge with meticulous care. I would like to thank Clara Forero Murillo for the beautiful design of the book. Miguel Ardila, Yadira Luna, Elsa Liliana Ulloa, and Magaly Sarmiento for their invaluable support. I am sure there are others, who I may have missed, whose assistance was essential for the success of this endeavor.

I am also grateful to Professors Luis Ignacio Aguilar, Gerardo Mejia and Jose Felix Cataño for their kind hospitality in hosting my visit. I would like to thank the coordinators of the doctoral program, Professors Ivan Hernandez and Jorge Ivan Bula for their support of the doctoral students. I hope its publication will assist others in using their knowledge of organizations and business practices to advance and refine an even more universal theory of accounting and control.

Muchas Gracias.

Shyam Sunder
Bogota, Colombia
August 17, 2005