

COMMENT FROM THE EDITORS OF IPMR

The articles in this issue are intended to be of interest to both academics and practitioners.

In the first part of the issue three articles comprise a mini-symposium on improving policy and management analysis. Articles by Gregory, Howlett and Lofstedt explore this task from very different vantage points with respect to topic and method.

The second part of the issue is comprised of articles on a variety of interesting public management and policy topics. In the first article by Ira A. Lewis and Roxanne Zolin is a comparative analysis of air transportation services from the perspective of stakeholder boards as proxies for markets for governance in six nations. This work is an excellent example to demonstrate that comparative management research can be highly useful and important in understanding alternative institutional arrangements for provision of services to the public. The second article in this section, "Improving Public Administration in the Asia-Pacific Region: Some Lessons from Experience," by Clay Wescott provides a comprehensive menu for reform that may applied to virtually all nations in the region. The third piece in this part of the issue is "A New Management Model for Government: Integrating Activity Based Costing, the Balanced Scorecard, and Total Quality Management with the Planning, Programming and Budgeting System" by Francois Melese, James Blandin and Sean O'Keefe. This piece suggests an innovative methodology for integrating some of the more current reforms now under review or implementation in government in the U. S. and elsewhere. The fourth piece in this segment of the issue is, "Implementation of a Standard Management Outcomes System: Analysis of a Case Study in Thailand, by Rumjuan Benjasiri. The author indicates the success achieved with PSO in Thailand as an example of what may be achieved elsewhere. The last article in the section of the issue is an symposium based on a dialogue about the state of NPM that took place in early 2004 on the IPMN listserver, titled, "New Public Management Has Been Completely Discredited, Thank God!" As readers will note, there remains considerable difference of opinion about NPM results and impact.

This is the second issue of the fifth volume of the International Public Management Review (IPMR). IPMR is published twice per year on the IPMR website at www.ipmr.net. Volume 1, Number 1 appeared in December 2000 as a double issue to inaugurate the series. Back issues are available at www.ipmr.net.

Why does IPMN publish an electronic journal? First, e-journals are an innovation in the publishing business and we want IPMN to lead in this area. Second, we want IPMR to be accessible and relevant to practitioners. Third, IPMR provides an additional outlet in which IPMN members and others can publish their work in the rapidly expanding discipline of public management.

The editorship of IPMR is organized on a regional and international basis with Associate Editors for regions and by nation in some cases. The Associate Editors share the task with the IPMR editorial group of finding good manuscripts for review. The Editorial Board of

IPMR is composed of many of the leading public management scholars and practitioners around the world.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles in this issue and that you consider submitting your work to IPMR at ipmnet@aol.com for publication consideration. Additionally, we encourage you to refer your colleagues and students to IPMR. We hope that articles published in IPMR will find use in the workplace and classroom.

L. R. Jones

Senior Editor

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ABOUT IPMR

IPMR The International Public Management Review (IPMR) is the electronic journal of the International Public Management Network (IPMN). All work published in IPMR is double blind reviewed according to standard academic journal procedures.

The purpose of the International Public Management Review is to publish manuscripts reporting original, creative research in the field of public management. Theoretical, empirical and applied work including case studies of individual nations and governments, and comparative studies are given equal weight for publication consideration.

IPMN The mission of the International Public Management Network is to provide a forum for sharing ideas, concepts and results of research and practice in the field of public management, and to stimulate critical thinking about alternative approaches to problem solving and decision making in the public sector.

IPMN includes over 600 members representing sixty different countries and has a goal of expanding membership to include representatives from as many nations as possible. IPMN is a voluntary non-profit network and membership is free.

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