

COMMENT FROM THE EDITOR: INTRODUCING THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW

It is my pleasure to introduce a new International Public Management Network publication – The International Public Management Review (IPMR). IPMR is an electronic journal that will publish two times per year on the IPMN website at www.willamette.org/ipmn. IPMR submissions are blind reviewed under the same quality standards of our sister IPMN publication, The International Public Management Journal (IPMJ). However, there will be no duplication or overlap of articles between IPMR and IPMJ. These journals will operate independently. Another difference is that IPMR is published by IPMN while IPMJ is published as a print journal by Elsevier.

The editorship of IPMR is organized on a regional/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 and getting them sent to us for review. The Editorial Board of IPMR is the same as for IPMJ – the Board is composed of many of the leading public management scholars and practitioners from nations around the world.

Why have we taken on this new publishing enterprise? There are at least three reasons. First, e-journals are the "happening" thing in the publishing business and we do not want IPMN to be behind in this area, particularly because conceptually we started with IPMJ as an e-journal and then went to a print format in response to recommendations from the editorial board. Second, we want IPMR to have a slightly more practitioner bent than IPMJ. Third, IPMR provides an additional outlet in which IPMN members and others can publish their work in the rapidly expanding sub-discipline of public management.

The articles in this first double issue represent some of the best work in the field presently in my view. Nancy Robert's article "Wicked Problems and Network Approaches to Resolution" defines what wicked problems are and why they plague us without apparent solution. She suggests some approaches that may lead to real progress in recognizing and resolving such dilemmas. Her paper, upon which this article is based, won the inaugural Freider Naschold Award for Excellence in Research in Public Management as the best paper presented at the Sydney 2000 IPMN conference. In "Problems in Public Management Development in Asia," Clay Wescott delves into how to measure performance improvement in public management in Asia. As an official for the Asian Development Bank, Dr. Wescott understands that it is one thing to ask for evaluation, and another to have it performed so that the results have meaning and lead to better management and decisions. In "New Public Management and the Politics of Government Budgeting," Joanne Kelly and John Wanna address whether the framework of incrementalism associated with the work of Aaron Wildavsky fits the new circumstance of managing under the tenets of NPM. They conclude that Wildavsky's model remains useful, but make suggestions on how it might be modified to fit with new managerial techniques and approaches. In the following article, "Public Management Control Reform in the U.S. and Italy," L. R. Jones and Riccardo Mussari define management control and apply their definition to recent experience with reform in the United States government and Italian local government. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this piece is the identification of impediments to meaningful

reform. They also report positively on some progress that has been made in both nations. On an even more positive note, Kuno Schedler provides a fascinating analysis of performance measurement and budgeting in Swiss cantonal and local governments in “Performance Measurement Challenges in Switzerland: Lessons from Implementation.” Because Professor Schedler works directly with these governments, he has unusual and invaluable insight into the management and political implications of performance measurement application. Martin Putterill and Derek Speer then provide a critical analysis of government information policy failure in “Has the Invisible Hand Shaped a Wooden Spoon? IT Policy in New Zealand.” The authors are careful in specifying the context and defining criteria to assess policy success or lack thereof. They apply their method to evaluate New Zealand efforts to foster IT development intended to enhance the capacity to compete within the region and the world. They find that New Zealand lags other nations in IT development and offer reasons why this has happened. Finally, Lotte Jensen gives us a critical analysis of the motives of the treasury and finance central agency of Denmark in its role as the implementation agent of public management reforms. She makes a strong case that the agency in question has manipulated the reform agenda to suit its own management control and budget constraint preferences. She also chronicles what may be termed “death by reform” – the results of wave after wave of changes, all only partially implemented, and that achieve little success except to reinforce the power of the central agency.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles in this first issue of IPMR, that you learn something useful from them, and that you consider submitting your work for publication consideration in the future.

Lawrence R. Jones

Editor

About IPMR	
IPMR	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
IPMN	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Websites	<p>IPMR: http://www.ipmr.net/ (download of articles is free of charge)</p> <p>IPMN: http://www.inpuma.net/</p>