

COMMENT FROM THE EDITOR: THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW

This is the second issue of the new International Public Management Network publication -- The International Public Management Review (IPMR). Volume 1, Number 1 came out late in 2000 as a double issue to inaugurate the series. Thanks to all those of you who have commented favorably on Volume 1. IPMR is an electronic journal that is published two times per year on the IPMN website at www.willamette.org/ipmn. IPMR also may be accessed directly without going through the IPMN website at www.ipmr.net

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 issue represent the diversity that characterizes the International Public Management Network. The first article is a symposium on the status and future of NPM reform. This symposium is the result of a dialogue that took place on the IPMN list server following the appearance of a short essay that appeared in the IPMN eNewsletter Number 1, 2001 entitled "Public management reform: Is the tide changing?" The topic of the essay was whether the wave of New Public Management-oriented reform in nations around the world has passed the crest and is now in decline. The symposium is comprised of twenty-two contributions responding to this question and raising related issues including the influential impact of a new wave – electronic government. The second article in this issue presents the findings of a survey conducted with finance officers from Palestinian by Ross Rubenstein, Katherine Willoughby and Russ Lipari on revenue sources of Palestinian municipalities. The results of the survey describe the strict limitations that Palestinian finance officers have in attempting to generate new revenues, and suggests some new options based upon a comparison to U.S. municipal revenue structures. The third contribution by Emidia Vagnoni and Enrico Bracci provides an in-

depth analysis of the cultural challenge faced by internal auditors related to knowledge transfer in Italian local governments. Italy has enacted a number of sweeping account and accountability changes for local government in the past ten years, as explained by Jones and Mussari in IPMR 1/1 2000. Vagnoni and Bracci have performed an excellent analysis of part of what is required to implement these changes effectively and in conformance with the intent of laws designed to give greater authority and autonomy to local government elected and appointed officials. The challenges they explain are daunting and yet these obstacles must be overcome in order for the comprehensive reform agenda passed by the Italian parliament to take effect. The last contribution to this issue is from Andrea Schenker-Wicki, who analyzes the impact of a new performance audit concept on the new method employed by the Swiss federal government to fund universities. She concludes that much must be learned from mistakes and review of alternatives for program planning so that imbalances can be corrected for the next funding period and the next time Swiss university funding law is revised. In addition, she notes that the checks made by external audits could provide a more complete picture of the performance and execution of specific political programs.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles in this second issue of IPMR, that you learn something useful from them, and that you consider submitting your work to IPMR at www.IPMNet@aol.com for publication consideration in the future.

Lawrence R. Jones
Editor