

COMMENT FROM THE EDITORS OF IPMR

The articles in this issue all are intended to contribute to our understanding of public management and management reform. The first article is a dialogue that took place among members of the International Public Management Network on the topic of performance budgeting and performance review of budgets in the US and elsewhere. The dialogue transpired spontaneously in a sequence of comments from IPMN members on the IPMN list server in response to an IPMN Newsletter essay published on the list server early in 2002. Readers have told us they enjoy these dialogues, both as they occur on the list server and later as edited articles with additional analysis and comment. The editors are grateful to all those who contributed to this dialogue.

The second article in this issue by Stefan Rieder and Luzia Lehmann provides an evaluation of NPM implementation in Switzerland. Dr. Rieder is one of the best-known evaluational consultants in his field in Switzerland and his work demonstrates in part what is necessary to assess NPM implementation fairly and accurately. The third article is by Peggy Liu, a doctoral candidate at the London School of Economics, on the topic whether public managers have anything to learn from trends in manufacturing management. This provocative essay is followed by a comment on it by Donald Mizaur. We believe readers will enjoy and learn from Liu's essay and the comment. In presenting this essay and comment, as editors we have departed from standard academic journal practice. We have done this because the purpose of IPMR is to innovate in format and content relative to what many traditional journals provide.

Our desire to innovate also explains the publication of the fourth article in this issue -- a piece by Manfred Gantner entitled, "Small Countries: Recipes for Economic Success." This article was originally a speech delivered by the author summarizing his work with a colleague rendered in a longer study. The editors believe this article is highly interesting and relevant to the study of public management. The author points out how small nations that may be ignored because of their size provide important lessons about the economic dynamics and relationships between reform and outcomes. As Gantner notes, "There are separation movements almost everywhere in the world, e.g., Scotland, Kosovo, Quebec and Chechnya. East Timor, another result of secession, is one of the youngest members of the international family. What is striking is the impression that -- despite theoretic predictions from standard economics -- some of the smaller countries are quite wealthy, especially some very small countries such as Liechtenstein." The piece also points out directions for further research on the topic.

The final article in this issue is by Christoph Reichard on what we think is a very important topic in the field of public management. The title of this work is, "Marketization of Public Services in Germany." We expect that readers will find similarities between what is under implementation in Germany and what is in progress in other nations. The author addresses whether and when marketization is appropriate for provision of services to the public.

This issue also provides a review of a recent book, *The New Public Management: Improving Research and Policy Dialogue*. (2001) Berkeley: University of California Press.

This is the second issue of the third volume of the International Public Management Network e-publication 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. Volume 2, Issues 1 was published in March 2001 and Issues 2 appeared in November 2001. Volume 3, Issue 2 came out in May 2002. Back issues are available at www.ipmr.net.

Why does IPMN publish an electronic journal? First, e-journals are a recent innovation in the publishing business and we want IPMN to lead in this area. Second, we want IPMR to have a slightly more practitioner focus than IPMJ. 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 the leading public management scholars and practitioners around the world.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles in this issue and that you consider using them on-line with your students in instruction. We also encourage you to submit your work to IPMR at ipmnet@aol.com for peer review and publication consideration.

Lawrence R. Jones

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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>
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