

## COMMENT FROM THE EDITORS OF IPMR

The articles in this issue are intended to be of interest to both academics and practitioners. The first piece presents the views of four internationally recognized public management scholars, Steven Kelman, Fred Thompson, L. R. Jones, and Kuno Schedler, on how the PM may be defined and understood as an emergent discipline. Their dialogue took place on the International Public Management list server in October 2003 and is reproduced here with only minor editorial changes. The second work in this issue by Clay Wescott explores how decentralization supports the policy commitments made by the Viet Nam government to increase citizen participation and accountability, and to reduce poverty and regional disparities. The article includes a review of basic definitions of decentralization to place this case study into an international context, a brief look at the unique historical context of Viet Nam, a comparison of policy intention versus implementation reality, an analysis of the impact of decentralization, and a concluding section on remaining challenges. The third article by Robert Gregory examines what the author views as major flaws in the original reform program implemented in New Zealand and suggests remedies based on the assumption that these flaws can be repaired. This study raises general questions about the relationship between the theoretical bases for public sector reform versus practical experience. The fourth article by Carsten Greve examines public-private partnerships in Scandinavia. According to the author, the main alternative to managed competition under contracting out is public-private partnership. Public-private partnerships identified are long-term cooperative relationships that embody a wide variety of institutional forms. The article that follows by Roger Bennett and Sharmila Savani presents the results of an investigation into the “place rebranding” processes of nine urban regeneration units in three countries: Britain, Denmark and the USA. The study examined the organization of rebranding activities, how basic decisions regarding new brand identity were taken, whether integrated marketing communications were employed, and the major problems that arose. The next piece by Hou Guangjian is a study of compensation policy in China. According to the author, external equity, internal equity and individual equity all influence compensation and, consequently, attitudes toward work and social status. Hou argues that if the government can provide the Chinese people access to better education, legal measures that guarantee fair competition, and improved training opportunities, real compensation equity may be more fully realized in the future.

The final work in this issue is a critical book review essay by New Zealand Professor Susan Newberry of Graham Scott’s book *Public Sector Management in New Zealand: Lessons and Challenges*.

This is the second issue of the fourth 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](http://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](http://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 submitting your work to IPMR at [ipmnet@aol.com](mailto:ipmnet@aol.com) for publication consideration.

L. R. Jones

Senior Editor

Kuno Schedler

Senior 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>
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