



An Editorial Note by Michiel S. De Vries

This is the first issue of the e-journal of the IIAS, IASIA and regional groups. This journal aims at expanding knowledge about developments in the public administration and public sector in countries and regions not extensively covered in the major journals in public administration. We would like to have papers that describe, try to explain or evaluate recent developments in governance, public administration or public policies in one or a couple of such countries. Be it about reforms, new managerial processes, policy developments, new developments in human resource management and so on. The only restriction is that the paper be relevant for the practice of public administration research and training, for the discipline of public administration and/or for the practice of public administration.

One aim of the journal is to provide a publication platform for high-quality papers presented at a conference of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) and International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) regional groups. At the IASIA conference in Paris in June 2015, the main theme was on alternative service delivery arrangements. Therefore most of the articles in this first issue address this issue.

This first issue consists of five articles. The first one is the keynote speech given by Wolfgang Drechsler, who addresses the classic notion on good governance, the role of the state and its role in service delivery. The second article is a policy paper by John Mary Kauzya of UNDESA, in which he explicates what is necessary to make the new sustainable development goals come true. The third article is an analysis from within by Bianor Cavalcanti, from the Fundacion Getulio Vargas, on what is currently happening in a country seemingly in distress, namely Brazil. Cavalcanti argues that despite the current crisis in Brazil, many steps have been taken in Brazil to strengthen its institutional capacity regarding the way of doing business and dealing with public-private partnerships as concerns fiscal and budgetary responsibility, as well as making politics in the country more transparent, accountable and focused on the common good.

The fourth article is a short discussion paper by Nada Abdelkader Benmansour, in which she puts forth a paradox visible in Qatar, namely that its own citizens are most satisfied about life while being less satisfied about

public services, and the migrant population is more satisfied about public services in Qatar while being less satisfied about life. The fifth paper, a research article by PhD student Mary Mangai, presents the outcomes of her research on public service delivery in Ghana and Nigeria. She finds a strong relationship between household satisfaction and problems experienced in public service delivery. The outcomes also show that satisfaction with public service delivery involves more than government performance as such. Political, geographical and demographic factors are also important predictors of such satisfaction.

This first issue therefore illustrates the papers this new journal is looking for, namely keynote speeches delivered at one of the conferences of IASIA or IIAS regional groups, policy papers, analyses from within, discussion papers and PhD research papers. We also encourage papers written from the perspective of trainees and students and/or written in such a way as to be supportive for enabling discussion among students and trainees about the merits of the developments and trends as described in the paper.

Papers that are less relevant for this journal are papers giving just a description of what one can read also on government websites, extensive theoretical papers – there are plenty of other journals publishing such papers – or politically oriented papers, because this is a journal about developments in administration.

On behalf of the editorial board,

Michiel S. de Vries