

Foreword

Access to reliable information and inter-organizational cooperation are two important factors that contribute to organizational effectiveness. Our Journal has focused the attention of our readers on these factors many times in the past. In this issue of the Journal we discuss some related matters that can affect the reliability or trustworthiness of public activities. As usual, much of the information in the articles relates to circumstances in specific countries, however, the issues addressed are universal and the problems described may occur anywhere. All of the articles in this issue offer approaches for consideration that might improve accountability with the goals of providing better information about public assets and improving the lives of ordinary citizens.

In the first article, the author examines accounting approaches for heritage assets that have been proposed in the public sector accounting literature and the impact such approaches have on the Net Worth and Performance Statements. The author suggests a Practical Accounting Approach for heritage assets, by which the exaggeration of net worth and the distortion of performance statement can be overcome.

The second article describes how measures of service-level solvency of local governments can be developed from an accounting perspective and how the measures were implemented to analyse service-level solvency of local governments in Indonesia. The article makes the point that Local administrators must take a number of actions to present fairly the financial position of public institutions.

In the third article, the author describes the many efforts to improve accountability in the Iraqi public sector. The article makes the point that while auditing rules were adequate for the past government revenue environment, there will be a need to improve auditing rules in the face of new kinds of government revenues such as a Value Added Tax. The article suggests that such audit rule improvements will result in the need to make improvements in the overall auditing system. It also describes the increasing role audit institutions will play in ensuring transparency and accountability in Iraq.

The fourth article draws attention to the problem of corruption, which can interfere with the transmission of information, disturb institutional balance, and increase transaction costs. It points out the need to introduce a number of anti-corruption solutions in Guyana, including implementation of legislation to protect persons who report in good faith, allegations of corrupt behaviour. It also describes an urgent need to regulate campaign financing for political parties.

In the last article, the author presents a brief overview of the history of public sector accounting.

We hope the articles in this issue will stimulate discussion on contemporary problems of public organizations. If you would like to participate in such discussions please start thinking about contributions for the next issue of this Journal, participating in the ICGFM blog, and/or attending future ICGFM events. We would also be pleased to receive reviews and suggestions of other resources that we should refer to in future issues. Send them to icgfm@icgfm.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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