

Foreword

Public financial reform appears to be entering a new practical-oriented phase especially in the public sector accounting and budgeting field. While accounting and budgeting scholars have exerted great efforts in the last three decades aiming at reforming and developing the public sector accounting and budgeting, these efforts are still of little value to the public sector accounting and budgeting practice. This is due to the fact that there is a lack of effective communication between accounting researchers and accounting practitioners, and as a result the impact of accounting research on accounting practice is not easy to discern. Therefore, the aim of the new phase is to foster communication between the accounting researchers and practitioners, which in turn leads to improving the accounting and budgeting practices and facilitates the work of practitioners.

This issue of the Journal takes the initiative of dealing with articles that enhance and improve the accounting and budgeting practice. In the first article, John Burg suggests a new conceptual public financial management architecture for the administration and management of international assistance that integrates a performance monitoring and evaluation framework with a public expenditure and accountability framework, including one potential transition modality to implement this new architecture.

In the second contribution, Hassan Ouda considers the necessary adjustments that should be available for making governmental accrual accounting more practice-relevant for the practitioners. This contribution aims to build a start-up point for developing a more practice-relevant version of accrual accounting that will improve the public sector accounting practices and hence it helps the practitioners to understand the nature of the governmental entities and how to apply the accrual accounting to the public sector.

The third contribution examines the practical issues of developing and applying a financial classification in the context of Tajikistan. Michael Parry and George Gridilian consider the specific problems of applying international classification standards to the actual organisational relationships. These include the difficulties of linking the standard Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) to existing organisations.

As a further step in improving the practical performance and results of governments, Hassan Ouda, in the fourth contribution, has attempted to explore the path towards Results-Oriented Government (ROG) by proposing a framework that can lead to achieving it into actual practice. The article argues that the Results Oriented-Government cannot work with the traditional government systems and the adoption of Results-Oriented Government needs to be based on a balanced public sector reform.

In the last article, the ICGFM Ad Hoc Committee on Accounting Standards Proposed changes to the Cash Basis Standard.

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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