2010 International Conference on Public Administration (6th ICPA)

“Public Administration Challenges and Opportunities: Serving Citizens in a Globalised World”

Call for Papers

October 22-24, 2010, Canberra, Australia

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Conference Theme
Public Administration Challenges and Opportunities: Serving Citizens in a Globalised World

Practicing public administrators and scholars worldwide are joined together in the common pursuit of serving citizens in a globalised world. Both challenges and opportunities however confront the efficient, effective, economical delivery of essential public goods and services. Fundamental resource challenges resulting from the global downturn of national economies over the past several years have added complexity and frustration to getting the job done. The phrase “doing more with less” has become all too real in many parts of the world. The 2010 International Conference on Public Administration is committed to a wide ranging inquiry into the challenges and opportunities to serve citizens in a diverse array of cultures, economies, and political-administrative settings.

Papers and proposals for meeting these challenges and opportunities are welcomed. We are especially receptive to proposals that focus on the sub-themes below but would encourage submissions that bring new ideas to any aspect of the overall conference theme.

Sub-themes

Public Administration Theory
It is often asserted that theory follows practice in the field of public administration. Perhaps, but practice without theory is an exercise in intellectual and practical futility. Theory and practice conjoined make for a powerful instrument that can advance the welfare and social equity of the citizenry. Papers that examine the theory/practice nexus are welcomed.

In Search of a Profession
Is public administration a profession worldwide? What are the promises, problems, and prospects for public administration as a profession? What are the defining characteristics of a professional public administrator? How does a professional serve citizens in a globalized world? These and other questions below evoke a number of issues that fit into this subtheme.

- How do professional associations contribute to or detract from serving citizens?
Do professional administrators require a higher education? If so, what are the constituent parts? Do they apply across cultures?

What does it mean to exercise public executive leadership? Are the leadership qualities needed in a globalized world different than those needed in a more insular world?

Where does ethics, accountability, transparency fit into serving citizens? Can public services be provided in the near absence of these qualities?

**Management Issues and Service Delivery Challenges**

The challenges and opportunities to serve citizens are on the front-line of managing large, complex organizations and institutions of governance. What are the new issues associated with:

- What new models of service delivery are emerging?
- Which level of government is best able to deliver what services? Which level should set the policies and provide the funds?
- Is new technology improving the quality of services or just the efficiency?
- What future opportunities is ICT offering for citizen-centred services?
- How should ICT be managed to get the best results?
- Anticipating and responding to emergency and crisis management conditions?
- Benchmarking and performance measurement?
- Human resource development?
- Governing in the midst of diversity?

**Governance with Networking and Partnerships**

Do we need more governance? Without question. It is a cliché to say that the world has become more complex and interdependent but there is no question that communities and nations are challenged by the nature and demands of what is increasingly regarded as “collaborating organizations.” The future is here and with it an emphasis on shared responsibilities, networks, boundary spanning, collaboration, shared learning, deliberation, and multi-sector relationships. Questions that might be addressed in this area include:

- Is there a “new” governance model?
- How are non-profit and NGOs connected to governance?
- What are the tools that public administrators need to execute new governance?
- What has happened with New Public Management? Has it morphed into something else? Become obsolete?
- What leadership skills are necessary to facilitate and bridge collaboration within and across organizations?
- What public management skills and knowledge are required to meet public policy objectives? Are negotiation and persuasion, collaboration, and enablement skills and knowledge essential?
- How are multiple players and stakeholders in indirect government and networks coalesced?
Communication and Innovation
Public administration is the “go to” agent for effecting social change that serves citizens. Communication and innovation are essential to getting this job done. Questions that might be explored in this area include but are not limited to:

- What are the communication skills and tools that administrators need to ensure that the work of government and NGOs advances the public interest?
- How can communication processes be designed to maximize clear and concise communication?
- What are the incentives to innovate? Obstacles to innovation?
- How is innovation in public service delivery achieved?
- How are innovative ideas and practices diffused within and among government?

Citizenship, Institutions, and Reform
Serving citizens in a globalized world necessarily requires citizen engagement, well functioning institutions, and reformed governance in many instances. The challenges and opportunities facing public administrators are to engage citizens and build institutions that earn the trust of the public. Questions that might be addressed here include:

- How and when does the public manager attempt to engage the public and how broadly?
- What forms of citizen or stakeholder engagement are most effective?
- What can be done to establish citizen driven administration?
- What are the tools and techniques that can be drawn on to create civic engagement?
- Where does neighborhood development fit into citizen driven administration?
- What can be done to reform weak institutions of governance?
- What can be done to curb corruption? What role does the public administrator have to play in reducing corruption?
- How does the privatization of public services contribute to or detract from serving citizens?
- What are the best structural configurations to govern? Centralized? Decentralized?

International and Global Challenges
The future of public administration will be more than ever global in character and behavior, affecting markets and governance systems. Public administration must be prepared with capacity building now to meet the challenges of rapid and chaotic globalization. Questions that fit into this subtheme are:

- Are there alternative models of public administration emerging free from the yoke of Western neo-colonial domination? If so, what do they look like?
- Is development administration morphing into something different?
- What role do international and supra-national organizations play in nation building and serving citizens in a globalized world?

Conference Website: www.icpa-uestc.cn
Organizers of the 6th Annual ICPA invite interested parties to submit abstracts, which address the topics listed above. The first page should include the following information: title, name(s) and affiliation(s) of the author(s), abstract, postal address, phone and fax numbers, and email address of the corresponding author. The second page should be a detailed abstract of no more than two pages.

All accepted papers will be published in the official Proceedings of 2010 International Conference on Public Administration by Press of University of Electronic Science and Technology of China and will be sent to be indexed by ISI Proceedings (Conference Proceedings Citation Index - Social Science & Humanities (CPCI-SSH, ex-named as Index to Social Science and Humanities Proceedings -ISSHP)) through ISI Web of Knowledge in USA. The submitted papers should be written in English with Microsoft Word 2000 or higher edition.

Important Dates
Paper Abstract Submission Deadline: July 20, 2010
Full Paper Submission Deadline: August 20, 2010
Paper Acceptance Notification: Before September 10, 2010

Contact
Papers Submission outside China (in Microsoft Word) are to be e-mailed to:
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Conference Venue: The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia
Registration Day: October 22, 2010
Conference Day: October 23-24, 2010

Conference Website: www.icpa-uestc.cn
The Proud Five-Year Legacy of the ICPA

Theme: The State of Public Administration: Issues, Challenges, and Solutions
Date: October 23-25, 2009
Venue: UESTC, P.R. China

Theme: Building Bridges to the Future: Leadership and Collaboration in Public Administration
Date: September 24-26, 2008
Venue: Minnesota, USA

Theme: Theory, Practice and Methods for Public Administration in 21st Century
Date: October 21-22, 2007
Venue: UESTC, Chengdu, P.R. China

Conference Website: www.icpa-uestc.cn
Briefing on The Australian National University

The Australian National University (ANU) is unique among its contemporaries as the only Australian university established by an Act of Federal Parliament, in 1946.

ANU has always been a university with a difference. Set apart by its unique research intensity, ANU offers an exceptional environment for discovery and learning. As Australia’s national university, ANU sets the standard in research, education and community engagement on issues of national and international importance.

From its inception in 1946, ANU was built around a group of Australian scholars who had already achieved international distinction, including Sir Mark Oliphant, a leader in radar development and nuclear physics; Sir Howard Florey, discoverer of penicillin; eminent historian, Sir Keith Hancock; and renowned economist, Herbert ‘Nugget’ Coombs. The first Vice-Chancellor, Sir Douglass Copland, described ANU as the “great intellectual adventure” and this spirit of discovery is reflected in the University’s motto, Naturam primum cognoscere rerum, ‘First to learn the nature of things’.

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Along with Australia’s other national institutions, ANU is a national asset. The University was established to be of enduring significance in the post-war life of the nation – to support the development of national unity and identity, to improve Australia’s understanding of itself and its neighbours, and to contribute to economic development and social cohesion. This national mission gives ANU a distinctive relationship with the Australian Federal Government. ANU was founded around four initial research institutes in physics, medicine, social sciences and Pacific studies and was the country’s only full-time research university. Its mandate was to undertake “postgraduate research and study both generally and in relation to subjects of national importance”. Since then there have been many progressive additions to the University’s range of activities, including a significant expansion in 1960 to take on undergraduate students, allowing the best Australian and international students to learn from some of the finest minds in the world.

Continuing to build the University’s reputation as a centre of excellence in both teaching and research were a range of new academic leaders. Professor Manning Clark, renowned as the nation’s most respected and famous historian was Head of the History Department from 1960 to 1971. Professor Frank Fenner played a leading role in the eradication of smallpox and led the team that pioneered the use of myxamatosis in the control of rabbits. World-renowned mathematician, Professor Hanna Neumann inspired mathematicians, teachers and students in Australia, and became the University’s first female professor.

Today ANU is a world-class research and teaching university, comprised of seven Colleges focussing on the fundamental academic disciplines. Made up of research and education Centres, Schools and Faculties, each College has a substantial capacity to undertake research and teaching of the highest standard.
As one of the world’s leading universities, ANU has a far-reaching vision to advance Australia’s intellectual and creative capacity through broad-based research and research-led education.

**Briefing on Canberra, the ‘Bush Capital’**

Home to some 320,000 people, Canberra is one of the world’s few planned cities, a city in a park, with golden autumn leaves and glorious spring blooms. Located on the ancient lands of the Indigenous Ngunnawal people, Canberra’s name is thought to mean ‘meeting place’, derived from the Aboriginal word ‘Kamberra’.

Canberra was chosen as the site of Australia’s national capital in 1908 and a worldwide competition to design the new capital was held. Famed Chicago architect Walter Burley Griffin was announced as the winner, with a design that incorporated the natural beauty of Australia and the democracy and modern ideals for a national capital.

A large artificial lake bearing Burley Griffin’s name is a central feature of Canberra and the original focus on the natural elements continues, with the many parks and nature reserves giving Canberra the title of the ‘Bush Capital’. The ANU campus is ideally situated, with the city centre and Lake Burley Griffin just a short walk away.

As the political apex of Australia, Canberra is home to the Federal Parliament and is the major city of the self-governing ACT. It is also the cultural heart of Australia, with the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the National Museum of Australia, the National Library of Australia, Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre and ANU all a short distance from the city centre. Canberra is the setting for the ceremonial, political and community events that reflect our nation’s history, spirit and aspirations.

As Australia’s national university, ANU is well placed in Australia’s modern capital city. ANU is integrally connected to the civic and commercial life of Canberra and Australia, and is strengthened through its valuable relationships with government, other national institutions and the diplomatic community in Canberra.
Therefore, the 2010 ICPA participants can take this opportunity to experience what The Australian National University really is. We look forward to meeting you again in Australia for 2010 ICPA. (See more information at: www.aspa.org.net, www.ipaa.org.au and www.icpa-uestc.cn)