

## Introduction

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It is my pleasure to introduce the re-launch of the *Public Administration and Policy An Asia-Pacific Journal* in spring 2012. The Journal is a continuation of the semi-annual publication first launched in 1992, jointly published by Hong Kong Public Administration Association and the City University of Hong Kong. After the last issue published in March 2005, it was suspended due to the departure of its Editor-in-Chief from the City University of Hong Kong.

We are now delighted to re-launch the Journal with the new Editor-in-Chief, Professor Sonny Lo from Hong Kong Institute of Education, and the support of a new co-publisher, the School of Professional Education and Executive Development (SPEED) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). Our new editors are academics from the University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and University of Macau. In order to maintain a high academic standard, an International Advisory Board consisting of renowned scholars from leading universities in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong has been formed.

The Journal is devoted to the integration of the theories and practice of public administration and management, with special emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region. It seeks to play a useful role in contributing to the improvement of public services by highlighting issues, problems and solutions through efficient and innovative management of public services. It targets at university libraries, public administration departments and schools, public institutions and associations, as well as individuals who are interested in public administration for subscription. Academics, current and former government officials, as well as executives in non-profit organizations and business are welcomed to contribute articles to the Journal.

It is a good timing to re-launch the Journal in 2012 as there are many democratic movements and changes of government leadership in the region, including Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mainland China, Japan, North Korea and Thailand. In view of such changes, the Journal will provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas between practitioners and scholars on a broad range of the latest public policy issues and the new pattern of governance in the region. Moreover, there are lots of new political and administrative reforms across the region in recent years. Public officials have to be more responsive in addressing the expectations and concerns of the people. Public engagement and

participation are the prevailing trends. With the popularity of Internet and electronic media, globalization affects every aspect of our lives. E-government and i-government are widely adopted in many countries. Under this new context, we expect *Public Administration and Policy An Asia-Pacific Journal* to provide insightful and critical information and analysis on issues that will have a bearing impact in the region and beyond.

We trust the proposed range of coverage and new facelift will meet readers' expectations and interests. The authors of articles in this Spring 2012 issue (Volume 15 Number 1) are renowned practitioners and scholars in the field of public administration. The articles cover public policies and management in Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, and developing countries. In future, we plan to publish special issues on different themes and subjects such as healthcare, housing, and higher education, etc. In addition to the printed version, an e-version of this journal is under preparation and should be available soon. We appreciate your valuable support and input so that the Journal will develop into a useful source of information and a forum for intellectual exchange in the years to come. The following are brief backgrounds of the co-publishers, HKPAA and PolyU SPEED.

**HKPAA:** Since first established in 1990, Hong Kong Public Administration Association is committed to the promotion of excellence in the study and practice of public administration. Our objectives are to enhance the quality of practice and teaching of public administration in Hong Kong; to provide a forum for the identification and discussion of public administration issues; and to stimulate discussion and to increase public understanding on issues of importance and relevance to public administration. We have, in close collaboration with local universities as well as counterparts overseas, aroused keen interest in the pursuit of best practices in public affairs. These shall remain our goals in future.

**PolyU SPEED:** Established in 1999, the School of Professional Education and Executive Development (SPEED) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) is committed to providing lifelong education opportunities for people with different education needs to acquire higher qualifications. PolyU SPEED is dedicated to offering students with high quality education programmes to enrich and enhance their lifelong learning experience. It provides a diversity of local quality programmes leading to top-up Bachelor degrees in both full-time and part-time study modes. Innovative programme nature aside, the School is planning to upgrade these programmes to Honours degree level gradually. The School now has a student population of over 8,000 and offers 22 programmes leading to PolyU-SPEED academic awards or overseas academic awards.