

Dear readers

Welcome to the first issue of the *Journal of Project, Program & Portfolio Management* in 2011. We are now in our second year of publication.

Although we did not start out with this *issue* to focus on Risk Management it has turned out to be so.

We start with an interesting briefing on the definition of risk by Dr. David Hillson - The Risk Doctor in the Viewpoint section. I requested Dr. Steve Leybourne to take on the section editor's role of this section and he has agreed to do so. Thanks Steve. Steve and I asked three project management academics to reflect on Dr. Hillson's briefing and we got inputs from the US, UK and China – so this has turned out to be a global viewpoint.

In line with the objective of our journal to extend beyond project management we have published an article by Professor Luis Copertari on project portfolio management that also considers a risk viewpoint.

Do you have an appetite for risk? Dr. David Hillson and Ruth Murray-Webster provide you with the RARA model (Risk Appetite - Risk Attitude) to help you to take an approach to take the right risks safely, setting measurable thresholds to take into account both your inherent risk appetite while adopting an appropriate risk attitude. Intrigued? Read on.

A non-risk paper published in this issue is from Dr. Anbang Qi and Jing Gu from Nankai University in China about an interesting initiative to teach project management by involving students actively to design case studies for their use in their classes at Nankai. This article sets the scene for our next issue.

This issue also includes an unusual case study by Dr. Yan Song. It may look different from the way we have been used to case studies. Yan calls it an organizational learning case study. When the case study was submitted we were in a quandary about publishing it as it did not look like a conventional case study. I then communicated with Yan as I felt that his case study could be an important contribution to the practice of project management. I should admit that I was probably biased due to my own interest in systems thinking. We finally agreed on a format that would fit this journal while not substantially changing the way he wanted to present it. We also decided not to reduce the length of the case study as the theoretical perspectives on which it is based are important as well. So it will be published in two issues of the journal.

Our next issue is a special issue on *project management education in the online world* which is being edited with Dr. Beverly Pasian as a Special Guest Editor. We have received several interesting submissions and you can look forward to a bumper issue.

Hope you enjoy reading this issue.

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