Building Global Public Management Governance Capacity: “The Road Not Taken”

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The World We Could Win, edited by Josephine Fraser-Moleketi, presents the findings of an international task force on administering global governance sponsored by the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS). The IIAS, founded in 1930 and headquartered in Belgium, is an association of 90 member states concerned with the study and practice of public management globally. This book is divided into two parts. The first part comprises six essays on different facets of global governance: multilevel governance (Andrew Massey), government and corporate relations and the World Trade Organization (Richard Higgott), access to justice (Jacque Ziller), global e-governance (Pan Suk Kim and Whasun Jho), leadership (Craig Baker and Emily Christensen), and the human factor (Dimitri Argyriadis). The second part presents regional perspectives on administering global governance in Africa (Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and John-Mary Kauzya), Japan (Akira Nakamura), and Europe (Werner Jann), plus a postscript (Anthony Makrydemetres) on the moral assumptions underlying global governance models. It concludes with several concrete recommendations for moving toward global governance: a charter, a merit-based senior executive service and civil service, professional training and development for this cadre of global governance administrators, a global fund for enhancing governance capacity, annual reporting on key global governance issues, and a specific focus on interaction, conflict, and ambiguities among national, subnational, and other levels of global governance.

In International Development Governance, editors Ahmed Shafiqul Huque and Habib Zafarullah make a comprehensive effort to link development and governance in the context of public policy and administration. The book has three objectives: to initiate discussion on the concept of development and governance (part I) by examining a range of issues and problems that developing countries face in establishing sustainable governance (part II), to look at tools that can contribute to this process (part III), and to examine their application to specific sectors (e.g., industry, agriculture, water, technology, health, and rural development). The 48 contributing authors are primarily professors in British Commonwealth and European universities. Huque and Zafarullah are political science professors with extensive experience in public policy, public administration, development, and governance, primarily in Southeast Asia, and with international development organizations.

Finally, Global Public Management, edited by Kathe Callahan, Dorothy F. Olshfski, and Erwin Schwella, offers a collection of short cases (3–12 pages in length) that illustrate workplace problems and policy situations that managers might face anywhere in the world, followed by commentaries by public management scholars and practitioners. Each commentary focuses on identifying the problem and offering suggestions on how to handle the conflict.

These three books have some similarities. All are edited readers that focus on the development of governance capacity. Each frames the topic conceptually, discusses current issues and problems, and focuses on specific sectors or regions. But here the similarities end and significant differences become apparent: tone, scope, level of analysis, and intended audience.