

GUEST EDITOR'S PREFACE

The Special English language Issue of the PAI is the third in the history of the journal. The policy of the PAI is to cooperate in preparing special issues with outstanding international research and expert institutions, and to promote international comparative research in the field of public administration.

This Special Issue of the PAI is prepared jointly with the Kennan Institute – a division of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars (Washington DC, USA). Most of the articles in the Special Issue (seven out of a total of nine) are dedicated to subjects that were either based on or related to the research projects that were completed by scholars during their stay at the Kennan Institute. The interest for participation in our Special Issue was so great that it was not an easy task for the Editorial Board to choose the articles for publication from more than twenty which applied for publication.

We would like to express our huge appreciation to the Kennan Institute for their valuable support of this scientific initiative, as well as for the distribution of the *call for papers* among the Kennan alumni, which had a favorable response, and for providing constant and fruitful communication with the authors during the process of improving the draft articles.

The content of the Special Issue covers areas of research connected with contemporary theory and practice of public administration and public policy, of which scholars in Russia and in the USA continue to have enthusiastic discussions. There are several topics of paramount significance among them: how to shape better public administration reforms by means of the existing administrative paradigms; how to improve the quality of public leadership using new technologies for transforming leaders' mindsets; how to evaluate macroeconomic consequences of the national debt's influence on the development of national economy (debt as a managerial instrument for the development of the national economy); how to struggle against corruption in transitional countries; what kind of migrant policy is suitable for shaping labor migration; how constructing city-agglomerations can restore the growth and development of the national economy; how to improve the quality of federal-regional "vertical" cooperation in modern federative countries; and, how regional authorities can better shape the administrative practice of communication with the local mass media.

The publication of the Special Issue, I believe, will improve interrelations between the researchers and think-tanks of both countries and promote the restoration of the heavily damaged Russian-US cooperation in social sciences and humanities, especially in such a palpable area as the analytics of public administration and policy.

Guest Editor, Alexey G. Barabashev