

Dear Reader:

This is the first issue of the Armenian Journal of Public Policy (AJPP), a scholarly publication of the Armenian International Policy Research Group. The Journal's main purpose is to provide a forum for discussion of various issues on Armenia and the Diaspora and disseminate the resulting knowledge. It provides an outlet for quality multidisciplinary manuscripts in any areas of economics and public policy. Armenia's transition to a market economy represents a unique opportunity for the study of a wide variety of economic, institutional, and social issues. As the first Journal of its kind, we have great hopes that the AJPP will stimulate research in these areas and provide a platform for scholarly exchange and debate of ideas.

The Journal publishes contributions that have been positively evaluated by professional peers, except when conference proceedings are reported. Submitted papers may be institutional, empirical, or analytical in character, and will be refereed by international scholars and practitioners in their particular fields. As a matter of editorial policy, articles previously published or in the process of being published elsewhere will not be considered for the AJPP. All published papers will be available online on AIPRG's website.

This first issue contains six articles from the first AIPRG conference on Armenia held in January, 2003, in Washington, DC. The financial support of the World Bank Country Office in Yerevan in publishing this issue is gratefully acknowledged.

As the AJPP brings Armenia-related economic and development policies and best practices closer to you, we hope to establish a wide readership of researchers and analysts in Armenia and the Diaspora, which could both learn from and contribute to the Journal. It is in this spirit of cooperation that we look forward to working with you in the future.

The Editorial Board