

● **SYMPOSIUM: E – Government Use**

Introduction: Build “Demand – Oriented” E – Government

..... Yuanping Zheng
Review of Research on the Citizens’ Using Behavior of E – Government

..... Yan Li, Chunkui Zhu & Wenjuan Li

Abstract Research on citizen use of E – government is a hot topic for both information technology adoption and public management scholars. Based on a comprehensive analysis of the existing research literature, this paper describes the main study types and research perspectives, summarizes the factors influencing E – government use by citizens and analyzes the weights of the primary factors in the existing literature. The prospect of development in this field is also discussed.

Key Words E – Government; Acceptance; Adoption; Review

How Does E – Government Usage Affect Citizen Trust: The Mediating Effects of Government Transparency and Responsiveness

..... Liang Ma

Abstract How does e – government usage affect citizen trust in government? In this paper we develop a middle – level theoretical model to explain the relationship between e – government usage and citizen trust in government; a relationship that is mediated by citizen perceptions of government transparency and responsiveness. In order to empirically test our hypotheses, we use data from a telephone survey that obtained responses from residents in 36 major Chinese cities. Using the multilevel model analyses, we found our hypotheses were substantially supported. This study also identifies the mechanisms through which e – government usage affect citizen trust in government and thereby deepens our understanding of e – government development and government legitimacy retention.

Key Words E – Government Usage; Citizen Trust in Government; Government Transparency; Government Responsiveness; Multilevel Model

Citizens' Use of Gov Mobile Apps and their Determinants: A Study to First – Tier Cities in China

..... Yueping Zheng & Jinxu Zhao

Abstract With the help of mobile internet, governments at various levels have been increasingly investing in mobile government by adopting mobile platforms to provide information and to deliver services. However, poor platform construction, the low download rate of the government mobile apps, etc. , continue to be problems. The further development of mobile government requires a better understanding of how citizens use mobile apps provided by the government and its determinants. Thus, this study conducted a phone survey with 1200 respondents to understand citizen usage and to explore the factors influencing their current use and future willingness to use the apps. We found citizens use these apps rarely and only 10% of respondents used them often. The significant factors influencing use of the apps were 1) the respondent's need for the app and 2) the respondent's acceptance of new technologies. Usage feedback (satisfaction and perceived usefulness) impacted respondents' willingness to use government apps in the future.

Key Words Mobile Government; Gov Mobile Apps; Citizen Usage; First – Tier Cities

● **SYMPOSIUM: Medium Term Fiscal Framework: International Experiences and Local Implications**

Introduction: Medium Term Fiscal Framework: An Emergent Reform

..... Meili Niu

Post – Crisis Big Bang: The National Fiscal Management Plan Reform of South Korea

..... Hui Shi, Xingze Zhang & Wanlei Mao

Abstract Since the early 1980s, a trend of Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs) reform spread across the world. South Korea launched such a reform in 2003, and successfully established a five year rolling framework called National Fiscal Management Plan (NFMP). With political support from President Roh Moo – hyun and technology assistances from the World Bank, Ministry of Planning and Budget (MPB) introduced the Top – Down ceiling mechanism and reconstructed its organization to better integrate the NFMP, annual budgeting and performance budgeting process. Although learned from western countries, The reform was also deeply rooted in history of Korea.

In spite of some shortcomings, Korea's NFMP reform could cast much light on China. It not only confirmed the positive effects of MTEFs on financial integrity and resource allocation, but also highlighted the critical role of involving multi-stakeholders, linking plan and budget, developing budgetary ability. Most importantly, it tells that China should adopt a more appropriate and better-designed approach for the upcoming MTEFs reform.

Key Words Korea; National Fiscal Management Plan; Reform

The Medium-term Budget Planning in France: Policy-oriented Budgeting Model

..... Yan Huang

Abstract As China's policy process and budget process have been separated for a long time, "fragmentation" and reliance on a "project system" are the most obvious features of both. Given this separation, it has been difficult to achieve national strategy and government policy objectives through budgeting allocation and management. Budget reform in France provides a possible example of how to bring these two processes together. Through the implementation of the new performance budgeting reform and public policy review system, France reshaped the "policy-oriented" budgeting model, promoted medium-term budget planning and formed a "Making national strategic planning-decomposition of policy plan-budget allocation and management-performance evaluation" budgeting-logistic chain. This reform closely linked the policy process with the budgeting process. France achieved its goal of being able to develop national strategy and policy by rationally and effectively allocating and managing budgetary revenue and expenditure under total control. It has thereby been able to maintain a sustainable national public finance.

Key Words France; Medium-term Budget Planning; New Performance Budgeting; Policy-oriented Budget Model

Medium Fiscal Framework in UK: Budgetary Reform under The Transformation of Public Policy

..... Meili Niu & Xuezhao Cui

Abstract Medium fiscal framework is an crucial instrument to improve fiscal sustainability. United Kingdom is the first country to form the medium expenditure

framework. In 1950s, along with the dramatic changes of international relations, the political, economic and social development required radical change of the government. In order to build a welfare state and modernize the government, the need for a medium expenditure framework to incorporate budgeting into policy formulation became the principal goal of reforming the fiscal administration. On the one hand, the reform improves the intervention of the government into the national economy and promote the economic growth. On the other hand, the medium framework provides long term view of the cost of public policies, especially the sustainability of welfare expenditure. This article introduces the evolution of the British medium fiscal framework and examines the preparation of the medium fiscal framework in UK. The implication of the British experience into the Chinese budgeting system is discussed as well.

Key Words Medium Fiscal Framework; Welfare State; Medium Expenditure Framework; Public Expenditure Survey; Plowden Report; Fiscal Sustainability; United Kingdom

The Experience and Inspiration of Germany Medium – term Fiscal Planning Reform : Comprehensive Collaborative Budget Model

..... Yanhua Kuang

Abstract China is beginning to implement Medium – term Fiscal Planning. In pursuit of that, it can draw important and profitable lessons from Germany’s experience of Medium – term Fiscal Planning. With the assistance of laws meant to deal with a financial crisis, Germany implemented its Medium – term Fiscal Planning reform. The enacted measures such as forecasting medium – term financial receivables and expenditures and a rolling plan for long – term investment projects were added into the former budgeting management framework. A national economic stability development committee was also founded, and the duties of federal finance department and federal economic department were made clear. The reform impelled the German economy to grow quickly. However, the German federal government would often change the forecast artificially as a result of such issues as the restraints of forecast technologies, accounting system reform, the requirements of the Maastricht Treaty, demands of the electorate and struggles among political parties. In view of this lesson, China can improve its laws, confirm the duties of relevant departments, and coordinate the reform with relevant

systems. Reforms should include revamping the accounting system, developing national economic five – year – plans as well as a yearly budgeting system, forecasting medium – term financial receivables and expenditures as well as a rolling plan for long – term investment projects, and implementing control deficits flexibly.

Key Words Medium – Term Fiscal Planning; Fiscal Deficit; Rolling Plan

● ARTICLES

Research on the Formulation Mechanism of Government Responsibility Perception after a Crisis Event

..... Biao Xu, Wanwan Lu, Xiaorong Liu & Hao Zhang

Abstract From the perspective of public perception, we integrated the cognitive attribution and responsibility attribution process, and constructed a concept model of the public perception of Government Responsibility after a crisis event. We also collected data through a questionnaire and made an empirical study. The study results showed that in a public crisis: (1) compared to government internal attribution, external attribution weakened government responsibility perception; (2) in government internal attribution, ability attribution weakened government responsibility perception; (3) controllability attribution increased government responsibility perception; (4) government social responsibility and social identity of government organizations had a significant negative significant effect on government responsibility perception; (5) perception of collusion between the affected party and government had a significant negative influence on government responsibility perception; and, (6) the severity of public crisis events had a significant positive influence on government responsibility perception. We hope this paper can promote public crisis and public perception research, and provides some insights to governments when dealing with the public crisis events.

Key Words Government Responsibility; Public Perception; Public Crisis; Cognitive – Attribution; Responsibility Attribution

● THEORETICAL REVIEWS

How Goal Ambiguity Affects Public Organizations: A Research Review

..... Shengyu Li

Abstract This article reviews the literature on the theoretical construction and research

progress of goal ambiguity in public organizations. Through a detailed review of the current literature, the article studies the theoretical development, conceptualization and operationalization of goal ambiguity, and evaluates the empirical research on the antecedents and consequences of goal ambiguity. The article then further discusses other important topics, such as the influence of goal ambiguity on organizational management, and organizational strategies of coping with goal ambiguity. The review shows that although a basic theoretical framework on goal ambiguity has been established, it is not yet mature on the whole. Improvements can be made on definition, measurement, and research methods. Dialogues with broader research perspectives should be encouraged. In China, the research on goal ambiguity in the public sector receives little attention. Developing a goal ambiguity theory applicable to the Chinese context will help to deepen the understanding of the logic of governmental behavior.

Key Words Goal Ambiguity; Goal Clarity; Public Organizations

● BOOK REVIEWS

The Way of Dealing with Public Disputes in China; Book Review of *Resolving Public Disputes Creatively*

..... Tingting Li & BJianzi He