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From the Executive Editor

By Markus Zimmer



Greetings from Abu Dhabi to all IACA members and readers of the *International Journal for Court Administration*. This second issue of the Journal reflects a diverse collection of articles relating to various aspects of court management and administration. Readers may be interested in the account by former U.S. District Court Clerk Luther Thomas of his participation with judges and prosecutors in an effort to assess the status of the Iraqi justice system shortly after the invasion. Another article by our good friend and colleague, P.J. Fitzpatrick, the current CEO of the Courts Service of Ireland, explores efforts to restructure the organizational structure and operational framework of the Irish courts. We are grateful to these authors and all others who contributed to this issue. We also are grateful to our Managing Editor, Philip Langbroek, for his tireless efforts to produce this second issue while juggling other responsibilities at the Law Faculty of the University of Utrecht and elsewhere.

Judges, court managers, and court staff in many countries continue to struggle to improve the capacity of their courts to effectively administer justice. In some, the challenges are enormous. I recently returned to Rwanda, a small developing country nestled deeply in the heart of East Africa, to participate in a conference assessing judicial reform progress. There, 60-70% of Rwandans survive at an economic level defined as absolute poverty. The revenues of the Government of Rwanda in 2007 for a population of more than ten million were approximately US\$ 700 million. Committed judges, prosecutors, and court managers live on extremely modest salaries and operate their courts with minimal resources. Other travels this year have taken me to Subordinate and Supreme Courts of Singapore where highly automated and well-managed courts serve as a model for other East Asian countries, and to London's Commercial Court whose reputation in the international business and financial communities is unparalleled.

Political, resource, and other challenges confront court systems even in the most advanced countries. We salute the efforts of our colleagues the world over – from Rwanda to Singapore, from Abu Dhabi to London -- for their committed and ongoing efforts to improve the quality and the effectiveness of how justice is administered while wrestling with such challenges. And we encourage all of you to share with us your articles, comments, and suggestions for this fledgling Journal.