

Editorial

Public-Private-Partnerships Advance E-Government Services

Entrusting construction, development and indeed operation of numerous government infrastructure projects to private developers has a long history in many parts of the world. Some believe the Great Wall of China is the first example of this widespread practice. Most familiar is private sector financing, construction and operation of highways, power plants and telecommunications systems in both developing and developed countries. This In-Focus section describes the evolution of Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs) as many are now known, often began as Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) projects where private contractors would construct a facility, operate it to return their investment through revenue derived from operating fees and tolls, then after an agreed period of years turn ownership to the sponsoring government entity.

This era of e-Government involves a transition from infrastructure to project that deliver of many types of government services. Key rationale for this are stressed by the World Bank and other UN agencies as “the service or project is a new one that cannot be provided within the financial resources or expertise of the government alone.” As well, “a private partner would reduce the cost and/or increase the quality and level of service from which the government could provide on its own.” Case examples from around the world are presented as well as the specific models of requirements that have been established by Ghana and South Africa.

Russell Pipe, Editor

Dedication

Jan Freese Pioneered Computerized Societies



Throughout his long career and vast experience, Jan Freese was a visionary seeking how to make a better tomorrow happen today. Some may see him as a judge, businessman and author, while many of his close friends know him as a humanist. His early work representing Sweden in the 1970s at the OECD on privacy and transborder data flows led him to prepare the Swedish Data Protection Act, the first such national law in the world. For many years he served as a member of the Data Inspection Board.

His public service leadership in Sweden involved positions as expert, secretary or chairman of several governmental public commissions in the fields of pub-

lic administration, computerization of the legal system, computer security, and freedom of information, over a thirty year period. For a number of years he served as a member of the Swedish National Industry Board, Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences, the Swedish Jobs and Security Foundation and in 1994 was a founder of the Secured Electronic Information in Society that aimed at introducing general rules and digital standards for encryption and electronic identification.

Jan wrote more than 30 books on privacy, freedom of information, computers and society, telecommunications, privacy. He expressed some caution about overdependence on automation, however, in a book entitled: "The Vulnerable Computerized Society," believing rapid advances in computer-communications should have certain ethical and social guidelines. Readers in Sweden were delighted to read his several "thriller" novels that had a wide following.

A few months ago after a short illness, Jan passed away. He will be remembered by a wide circle friends in Europe and the world for a lifetime of service, wisdom and kindness.

Russell Pipe, Editor