

## Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the *Engineering Project Organization Journal* (EPOJ). This launch is the culmination of a decade of efforts by many people around the world and from multiple disciplines. I believe this extensive development effort has resulted in a journal that meets the unique needs of the engineering project organization community. However, this launch is not happening independently. Rather, this launch parallels the launch of the Engineering Project Organization Society ([www.epossociety.org](http://www.epossociety.org)) and the Engineering Project Organization Conference (EPOC) series. In this manner, the journal represents one-third of a comprehensive approach to addressing the diverse and unique interests of this research community.

This first issue of the journal celebrates the diversity of the engineering project organization community by commencing the publication of the Pathfinding series of papers as well as highlighting five of the best paper candidates from the EPOC held in November 2010 in South Lake Tahoe, California, USA. The first of these papers is the first of the Pathfinding series that paves the way for the future development of the engineering project organization community. In this paper, I put forth the factors that establish the need for the EPO community as well as providing a definition for EPO research and the path forward for this journal and the community. The paper is written with the purpose of providing a context for authors and researchers to consider as well as providing a starting point for the Pathfinding series. This series will continue with one paper exploring a specific area of research in the community being published in each issue over the first two years of publication.

The main body of this issue is devoted to publishing five technical papers that represent the diversity of the engineering project organization community. The first of these papers by Jooste, Levitt and Scott addresses the role of public-private partnerships in different local scenarios. The paper highlights the need for inter-disciplinary perspectives in EPO research as it includes academics from both the engineering and social science disciplines. The placement of this paper as the first technical paper in the new journal also recognizes the unique contributions of Professor Raymond Levitt to the EPO community. The recipient of the 2010 Pathfinder award from EPOS, Professor Levitt is

one of the pioneers in this field, advocating inter-disciplinary perspectives and the need to incorporate social science as a fundamental component of the EPO community. We recognize Professor Levitt's contributions to this community and thank him for his continued work to establish EPO research as a unique academic field of inquiry.

The second paper in this issue by Di Marco and Taylor continues the emphasis on inter-disciplinary perspectives to address emerging topics as it addresses the need to understand cultural influences in engineering teams. The paper introduces the concept of a cultural boundary spanner as a key element of success for multi-cultural teams. Continuing this focus on inter-disciplinary perspectives on project teams, Hartmann and Bresnen present the third paper on partnering and the organizational and social concerns surrounding a successful project partnership. The paper combines engineering and business perspectives to explore the multiple dimensions related to successful partnering arrangements. The fourth paper builds on this focus of project organizations by taking a game-theory approach to knowledge management within an engineering firm. Ho, Hsu and Lin introduce game theory as a method to assist organizations in expanding the use of knowledge management and understanding the types of knowledge that exist within a given firm.

The final paper in this issue by Chinowsky *et al.* was the Best Paper Award winner at the 2010 EPOC. The paper illustrates the breadth of the EPO community by addressing organization concerns at a governmental level. Specifically, the paper introduces the effects of climate change on economically and geographically diverse countries and the need for governments to address climate change challenges from multiple perspectives.

On behalf of the Editors and Editorial Board, we thank you for reading this inaugural issue and we look forward to presenting papers of equal interest and diversity over the next year. Please contact me or the Editorial Board with any comments regarding this new venture as long-term success depends on the journal meeting and exceeding the expectations of the readers.

Paul S. Chinowsky

Editor

