

Letter to the Reader

Bruno Spada



José Múcio Monteiro

Minister of the Federal Court of Accounts of Brazil and Head of the Editorial Council of the TCU Journal

Dear reader,

It is with great pleasure that we start, with this issue, our editorial activities for the 2017-2018 biennium.

Right after we took over the presidency of the TCU Journal Editorial Council, our first initiative was to assemble the Council to reflect about improvement opportunities for our journal. It quickly became clear that there was a need to listen to the most important party and reason of our work. You, the reader!

We launched an opinion poll to learn more about the readers' perception and collect suggestions to improve our periodical/journal. The result was excellent! Inspiring! In the following editions, we will bring more information about this poll and we will discuss the new goals of the TCU Journal. For now, we would like to thank everyone that has collaborated with the poll and offered so many valuable contributions for our improvement. Our most sincere thanks/appreciation.

This edition discusses an essential topic to the economic and social development of any nation: infrastructure. We had the honor to coordinate the post-crisis infrastructure development international seminar: the role of SAIs, held at TCU in September 2011. On that occasion, representatives from more than 30 countries shared information about the main challenges related to infrastructure investments in the period that followed the 2008 crisis, which began in the United States of America with the break of financial institutions, destabilizing other countries. Almost six years later, the topic could not be more current, considering that the national scenario is not exactly a "post-crisis scenario".

In 2011 and 2012, we reported on processes related to the Ministry of Transport and from 2015 to 2016, processes related to the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Thus, we can assure that the challenge of investing well in infrastructure in our country is more and more complex and challenging.

The articles selected for publication in this edition contribute to the topic by approaching extremely relevant issues. The analysis of methods and alternatives to improve the decision-making process on investments in infrastructure projects and the importance of evaluating the interdependence of projects to the success of the projects portfolio as whole are discussed. The potential of data analysis to improve the decision-making process regarding selection of control objects, as well as the usage of econometric techniques to calculate overprice in a case study in Petrobras contracts are shown. Hypothesis of better management of waterways in the federal transportation system, TCU contributions to the improvement of urban mobility and the influence of campaign donations on prices of public works are also discussed.

In the opinion column, the Coordinator-General for the TCU Infrastructure Sector, Saulo Benigno Puttini, brings an analysis of the infrastructure importance to the national development and the role of TCU in that scenario.

The resumption of the Petrobras divestment process, after improvements made by the state-owned company because of a TCU audit, and the successful auction of the Fortaleza (CE), Salvador (BA), Florianópolis (SC) and Porto Alegre (RS) airports deserve a highlight in this issue.

Our interviewee in this edition needs no presentations. Pedro Parente assumed the Petrobras presidency during an unprecedented crisis that put the company in the middle of a corruption scandal investigated by the Lava Jato operation, involving politicians, contractors and billions of reais. Our interviewee is known for his competence in crisis management and he shared his views on Petrobras, TCU, and strategies to overcome the crisis and continue moving forward.

Enjoy reading this issue!