

Dr. Prajapati Trivedi receives the International Public Administration Award

Dr. Prajapati Trivedi of the Indian School of Business is this year's recipient of the prestigious International Public Administration Award from the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). The first ever Indian to win this prestigious award which is given to an individual who: holds citizenship in a nation other than the United States; lives and works (primarily) in a nation other than the United States; and contributes significantly to the field of public administration as a scholar, practitioner or both, as demonstrated by publications, awards and honours, and testimony by the recipient's colleagues and beneficiaries of the recipient's work.

Since 1939, ASPA has been America's most respected society representing all forums in the public service arena. It is an advocate for greater effectiveness in government, agents of goodwill and professionalism, publishers of democratic journalism at its very best, purveyors of progressive theory and practice and providers of global citizenship. ASPA leaders believe that by embracing new ideas, addressing key public service issues and promoting change at the local, federal and international levels, the society can enhance the quality of lives worldwide.

ASPA is the largest and most prominent broadly based professional association in American public administration. It has a diverse membership of approximately 8,000 practitioners, academicians and students. ASPA serves as the principal arena for linking theory and practice within the field of public administration.

Dr. Trivedi has had two very impactful stints as a distinguished public administrator in Government of India. In both assignments he fundamentally altered the way public sector is managed and held accountable for performance. In addition, he served as an International Civil Servant with the World Bank for around fifteen years. In this capacity he worked on public sector reform issues in a large number of developing countries.

In recognition of his path breaking academic work on public enterprise management as the STC Chair Professor of Public Sector Management at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, he was invited by the Government of India as a part-time Economic Adviser to the Government of India in 1988 and subsequently as a full-time Economic Adviser from 1992-1994. During this six year stint with the Government he pioneered the design and development of the policy of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for around 256 public enterprises belonging to the Government of India. MOU is essentially a performance contract between the Secretary to government acting as the owner (principal) and public enterprise chief as the manager (agent). In this performance contract annual objectives, action and targets are mutually agreed and performance is measured against these targets. Good performance is rewarded with significant financial incentives. Dr. Trivedi was responsible for a creating an innovative methodology for creating a performance scorecard. This policy introduced in 1991 has dramatically transformed the performance of public enterprises in India and public sector has become an important engine of growth, as opposed to being a drag on the economy. The policy has been subsequently adopted by many other countries and continues to be an important public policy in India.

In 2009, the then Prime Minister of India invited Dr. Trivedi to join the Government of India as Secretary to Government of India responsible for performance management of government – a sort of Chief Performance Officer in the Government of India. In this position, Dr. Trivedi revolutionized the performance management in government. He scaled up and adapted performance contracting and introduced a new and improved version of Performance Agreement. He designed and implemented a highly regarded performance management system across 80 departments of Government of India and in around 14 States of the Indian Union. Today that methodology is being used in many SAARC countries

From 1995-2009, he served as a Senior Economist with the World Bank in Washington, DC. In this position he worked on reform of government and public enterprises in more than 26 countries in various continents. He has written four books and large number of papers in professional journals.

He studied for M.Sc. (Economics) from the London School of Economics and Political Science and completed his Ph. D. in Economics from Boston University. Starting with the Public Enterprise Workshop at the Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID) in 1979, he has taught applied economics to MPA students regularly at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. In 1987 he was appointed as the State Trading Corporation Chair for Public Sector Management at the prestigious Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM). In addition he has taught in many leading universities, including Boston University, Northeastern University, and Bryant College.

Dr. Prajapati Trivedi has been on all sides of the public administration experience. He brings to table a rich experience in public administration and management that spans a large number of developed and developing countries. A person with a truly global perspective, he has very high credibility and wide international appeal. He has a wide personal network of international academics and practitioners in public administration. As a teacher of Prime Minister (Bhutan) and Presidents (Costa Rica and Mexico), he has seen the field of public administration from all vantage points.