Foreword

It is a privilege to have an opportunity to introduce *Comparative Studies and Regionally-Focused Cases Examining Local Governments* which aims to be an essential source of reference for comparative local governments and politics.

Comparative government and politics has become a popular research field again due to the globalization process. In addition to more general studies on government and public administration systems, a new generation of studies is being carried out specifically on decentralization policies in various countries and their effects on national local government systems. In other words, there is a new trend in examining local governments from the perspective of comparative government and politics against parameters such as globalization, privatization, localization, managerialism, and governance.

This book identifies the potential of comparative perspective and tries to cover various components of local government and politics with such a perspective. The book contains chapters on specific country studies and these individual chapters address different aspects of local government and politics such as relations between central government and local governments, local autonomy and decentralization policies, types and models of local government, the role played by local governments in political and administrative systems, managerial reforms in local governments, new developments in local governance and democracy.

This book reviews some of the challenges, innovations and lessons from local governments of many developed and developing countries and provides some practical examples that will help local actors. The key message of this book is that it is not possible simply to replicate a local experience since the process of transfer requires much more interaction between areas and careful adaptation to local conditions. Thus the book does not seek to provide a template, but rather to put forward practical examples that national and local policy-makers can draw from and adapt to their own needs.

I strongly believe that this book, which is intended to provide an overview about general characteristics of local government and politics with a comparative perspective, will be helpful for local politicians and administrators as well as academics and undergraduate and postgraduate students.

I would like to commend IGI Global and the editors, Dr. Ugur Sadioglu and Dr. Kadir Dede, who undertook the task of bringing this book from an idea to a reality. Likewise to the authors of individual twenty chapters, who contributed to this book which provides a comprehensive overview of local governments in many developed and developing countries of the world.

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