

Editorial

As the World Cup has recently shown, being a small island state is not a bar to making headlines. Well done, Cape Verde!

Seychelles was not there (this time) but does rather well in other spheres. In just 50 years since independence, it has given birth to successive generations looking for different ways to take the nation forward. As the Editor of this research journal, I am constantly amazed at the range of ideas embodied in a regular flow of articles. This present issue is no exception. Two of the six articles are written by experienced researchers and the rest by younger, rightly inquisitive newcomers; it is a happy combination.

First, there is a discussion of the new world order, and how it is already challenging international relations in the region and the security of small island states in particular. Following this, there is a well-researched article on an aspect of the ‘disconnect’ between the dominant spoken language in Seychelles and the exam system which requires equal competence in English. The next article, and a new topic for the journal, concerns dental treatment and the authors’ concern that comprehensive facilities for early oral health care are not adequately taken up.

Writing from France, the author of another article investigates how Seychellois perceive and use French, especially in educational contexts in Seychelles or among those who have migrated to France. There are then two further articles with practical implications for policies in Seychelles. One puts the spotlight on an example of invasive species, pointing out that the challenge is not only to prevent its spread but also to make productive use of the redeemed ecosystem afterwards. And the final article looks at an aspect of the tourist industry on which Seychelles is so dependent. Certification has been introduced to encourage providers at all levels to meet sustainability standards, but to date, there has not been the level of response that was hoped for.

As well as these articles, Kelly Hoareau – former Director of the Blue Economy Research Institute – writes from Australia with news of her recently awarded doctorate. In her thesis, she explores how local knowledge systems influence the design, implementation, and long-term sustainability of the blue economy. Kelly left a valuable legacy in Seychelles and has a promising future ahead of her.

There are also two interesting book reviews. One relates to the intriguing question of how some of the world’s nations manage without standing armies. Zoltan Barany’s *States Without Armies: Why they exist and how they survive* shows that countries like Mauritius manage well enough, and enjoy a peace dividend as a bonus. The other review is of a book by Sarah Levy (with Paul Watson), *The Only Flag Worth Flying*, in which the main

argument is that NGOs serve as ‘the de facto enforcers of marine conservation’ and ‘the de facto governors of the ocean’.

Being at the heart of so much interest and activity surrounding the further development of Seychelles is a privilege and an honour. But, after eight years in this position, I believe it is time to hand over to a new Editor. There is always room for fresh ideas and I am delighted to announce that Professor Mats Deutschmann has agreed to take on the challenge. Mats is in the unique position of holding a university post in Sweden as well as spending much of the year in Seychelles, where he continues his own lively research on education. You can be assured that the journal will be in good hands.

It remains for me to thank the Deputy Editor, Jane Woolfenden, for her totally dependable contribution over these eight years, and I am glad that she will continue in this role with Mats. I would also like to acknowledge my gratitude to the international and other advisors who have provided the necessary credibility to enable the journal to meet required standards. And, to them as well as other reviewers, I am grateful for informed comments on proposals. Finally, this is a UniSey publication and I would like to thank successive Vice-Chancellors, Justin Valentin and Joelle Perreau for giving their personal support to the project. Research is an important part of the university’s profile and SRJ contributes to that.

Long may it flourish!