

# The Journal of Project Finance

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 3

FALL 2000

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A fascinating part of project finance is the multitude of challenges faced by individual and sectoral projects. Some of the challenges covered in the articles in this issue include the introduction of new financial and information technology, the evolution of project developments in emerging markets, and the privatization process in mature economies. The breadth of these issues keeps us busy in the project finance community and, perhaps more importantly, it keeps us interested in the process.

This issue begins with two approaches to risk diversification and management, an article by Roger Feldman on financing portfolios of independent power projects and an article by Stephan Marti and Lowell Keith on the use of insurance as financial risk capital. Next John McKenna, Jonathan Saiger, and Himesh Dhungel describe how e-commerce is being applied to project finance. Finally, the issue has four articles on infrastructure finance. To start, Teresa de Lemos, Martin Betts, David Eaton, and Luis Tadeu de Almeida provide a useful historical background to not just the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) in the United Kingdom, but to all of project finance. (They will follow up with an article on risk management in PFI projects in the Winter issue.) John Strong provides a case study on a ground-breaking power project financing in Côte d'Ivoire with lessons learned for other projects in Africa. From time to time it is useful to see a case study on why a project did not work out as Raymond DiPrinzio writes on the United States Department of Energy's decision not to go ahead with a very expensive nuclear waste clean-up project. The issue concludes with Tong-Kyu Park's assessment of investment opportunities in Korean infrastructure projects and his recommendations for regulatory changes to attract more foreign investors.

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