



2023 EROPA CONFERENCE BULLETIN

"The Role of Public Governance in Socio-Economic Recovery and Development Towards the Sustainable Development Goals"
October 16-20, 2023 | National Convention Center, Ha Noi, Viet Nam



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2023 EROPA CONFERENCE

***"The Role of Public
Governance in Socio-
Economic Recovery and
Development Towards
the Sustainable
Development Goals"***



The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA), together with the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam through the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), has successfully conducted its first face-to-face conference since the pandemic last October 16-20, 2023 at the National Convention Center, Ha Noi, Viet Nam. With this year's theme of "The Role of Public Governance in Socio-Economic Recovery and Development Towards the Sustainable Development Goals," the conference was able to showcase four (4) plenary sessions focusing on public governance for sustainable development goals, building public governance capacity to promote socio-economic recovery and development, and renewal of local governance towards the sustainable development goals, among others. It also featured 16 plenary speakers and experts from India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The EROPA was also honored to have **H.E. Pham Thi Thanh Tra**, Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Viet Nam, to be the keynote speaker during the opening ceremonies. In her remarks, the Honorable Minister has emphasized that public governance must focus on public management and arriving at a good perspective in planning development especially in this time where we face non-traditional threats in the global landscape. She then noted Viet Nam's 10-year development plans to restructure the economy and make the public sector more responsive. She then concluded her speech with the earnest hope for sincere, frank, and open exchanges of knowledge and ideas that will help each neighboring country attain the SDGs.



The Conference also provided an avenue for 84 research papers focusing on Socio-Economic Recovery and Development: Issues Raised and the Need for Renewal of Public Governance; Renewal of Public Governance to Promote Socio-Economic Recovery and Development; and Building Public Governance Capacity to Promote Socio-Economic Recovery and Development from Canada, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, and Viet Nam.

It was also this year when the EROPA awarded **three (3) Carlos P. Ramos Best Conference Paper Award and the first Marie Rosenberg Best Conference Paper Award for women scholar and/or practitioner.** The winners of the award are the following:

CARLOS P. RAMOS BEST CONFERENCE PAPER AWARD

Dr. Putri Noorafedah Megat Tajudin (Malaysia) 

"Towards Sustainable Empowerment: A Guided Micro-Entrepreneurship Program for Unlocking Welfare Dependency in Malaysia"

Dr. Long Tran & Dr. Suu Nguyen (Viet Nam) 

"The Inequity of Coproduction Burdens: Evidence from Vietnam"

Dr. Pham Ngoc Ha (Viet Nam) 

"Adaptive Leadership in the Public Sector During Challenging Times: A Literature Review"

MARIE ROSENBERG BEST CONFERENCE PAPER AWARD

Ms. Reiou Regie Manuel (Philippines) 

"Jeepney Phase(In): The Unaccountable Innovation and Ethical Dilemma of the PUJ Modernization Program"





EROPA 29TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This conference likewise conducted the 29th General Assembly where the members of EROPA welcomed its new set of officers, listened to the reports of the EROPA Secretariat, and discussed the ways forward.

The newly elected officers who shall serve for two (2) years are: President – Dr. Adi Suryanto, Chairman of the National Institute of Public Administration (Indonesia); Vice President – YBhg. Datuk Dr. Anesee Ibrahim, Deputy Director General, Public Service Department; Group Member Representatives – JCLAIR Singapore, and Hong Kong Public Administration Association (HKPAA); and Individual Member Representatives – Dr. Akio Kamiko of Ritsumeikan University, Dr. Vincent Wong of HKPAA, and Dr. Narendra Raj Paudel of Federal Republic of Nepal. The EROPA also recognized and welcomed the election of its new EROPA Executive Council (2024-2025) Chairperson Dr. Nguyen Ba Chien, President of NAPA Viet Nam, and 1st Vice Chair Dr. Xu Wei of the Chinese Academy of Personnel Science (CAPS) of the People's Republic of China. The Future Plans and Programs Committee Chair Dr. Masao Kikuchi, Resolutions Committee Chair Dr. Vincent Wong, and Secretary General Dr. Alex Brillantes, Jr. were also re-elected in their respective positions. Asian Review of Public Administration Journal has likewise announced its new Editor-in-Chief, the EROPA Deputy Secretary General for Research and Publications, Dr. Kristoffer Berse.



This face-to-face conference also hosted more than 500 participants from Canada, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam. Indeed, the conference was a huge success and has certainly provided another platform for dialogues and discourses on the pressing issues and emerging trends in the field of public administration. The succeeding sections will provide you with some snippets and highlights of the plenary sessions conducted in the week-long conference.



Conference Plenary I 11th Asian Leadership Forum on “Public Governance for Sustainable Development Goals”

This plenary was chaired by **H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Trieu Van Cuong**, Vice Minister of Home Affairs, and co-chaired by **Prof. Dr. Masao Kikuchi**, Professor, Meiji University. This 11th Asian Leadership Forum, originating in 2012 during the 56th EROPA Conference in Nepal, has become the forum that has facilitated discussion in response to global challenge, leadership, and administrative reform. It has served as a forum for leaders to discuss emerging issues and new measures to develop quality service and to show vision about different stakeholders’ roles in national development.

The presentation of **Hon. Benjamin Abalos, Jr.**, Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippines, discussed the projects and programs of the Philippines’ DILG in building inclusive, peaceful, and sustainable communities in the Philippines.



*There should be humanity
and the heart to change
the situation with a
perfect solution.*

Hon. Benjamin Abalos, Jr.

To make it happen, the DILG took the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its guiding framework for all its programs. It focused on the five Ps – People, Planet, Partnership, Peace, and Prosperity. Under these five Ps, programs should focus on improving the Filipinos’ health and safety, public morals, culture, ecology, comfort and convenience, economic prosperity,

social justice, full employment, scientific and technological capabilities, and peace and order. Secretary Abalos also brought to the table the issue of just share in the Philippines brought by the different system of national and local governments in resolving the share of financial resources. To resolve this, local governments are divided into four: (1) EVOLVE LGUs with high capacity and high performance into sources of good practice and innovation, and exemplars of local governance under full devolution; (2) ENABLE LGUs with low capacity to unlock capacity issues to seize in full the promises of full devolution and reinforce performance because of targeted capacity development (CapDev) solutions; (3) ENGAGE LGUs with low capacity and low performance to catch up with other LGUs, and provide them with targeted CapDev solutions; and (4) ENERGIZE LGUs with high capacity to translate this into high performance in the context of full devolution through targeted CapDev solutions.



He then emphasized in his presentation that all these successes should be credited to leadership and good governance. He likewise highlighted that there should be humanity and the heart to change the situation with a perfect solution.

In the video recorded presentation of **Dr. Alikhan Baimenov**, Chairman of

the Astana Civil Service Hub (ACSH), Kazakhstan, he emphasized that in addressing pressing worldwide issues, the SDGs also mirror the collective hopes and aspirations of humanity. In reality, governments seek timely and efficient solutions within the unique socioeconomic, political, cultural, and historical context in which they operate. At the same time, they all confront the complexities brought on by the so-called manual geopolitical tensions, rapid technological advancements, and the integration of Generation Z into the global workforce.

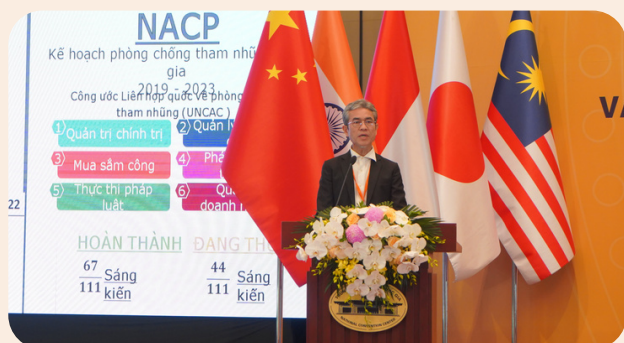


He then discussed his proposed solutions which include governments need to consider breaking down the silos, adopting a whole of government; and the adoption of flexible organizational structures, which in new settings seem to be more viable than conventional hierarchical ones.

In addressing pressing worldwide issues, the SDGs also mirror the collective hopes and aspirations of humanity.

Dr. Alikhan Baimenov

Dr. Baimenov also highlighted that cooperation at all levels international intermunicipal and interprovincial is gaining ever growing importance, emphasizing that both SDG 16 and 17 are pertinent to all the other sustainable development goals. As an example, the Astana Civil Service hub since its very inception, has promoted multilateral partnership and mutually beneficial learning with the aim of assisting the governments of participating countries in their efforts to build effective civil service. As a concluding remarks, he also highlighted that there are certainly many factors that determine the future of civil service. Although there is no silver bullet, everyone can find best fit solutions and deepen understanding of current challenges.



The presentation of **YBhg. Datuk Dr. Anesee Ibrahim**, Deputy Director General, Public Service Department, Malaysia, focused on the importance of good governance, which can be achieved by upholding integrity, together with good governance. He also emphasized the importance of keeping corruption in check because if not, the country will be brought down sooner or later. He also noted the comprehensive implementation of SDGs of Malaysia that requires the mobilization of resources including manpower, capacity building and physical spaces, as well as funding. Since Malaysia's national development plans have always been

geared towards economy and social growth, the SDGs are aligned with these, thus, allocation of resources and funding are ready made and available. He likewise presented the challenges faced by Malaysia in implementing the SDGs which include: coordination among agencies because of the SDG's interrelated agenda that involves stakeholders. Next is financial resources as government and private funding may not be sufficient. Innovation is needed such as crowd funding. The third one is localizing which means the significance of realizing the importance of SDG in the communities.



Last presentation for the plenary was the video recording from **Dr. Agus Pramusinto**, Chairman, Civil Service Commission, Indonesia, which discussed the bureaucratic reform to address the Sustainable Development Goals in Indonesia.



He mentioned that Indonesia has experienced significant progress and development in various fields such as economy, democracy, infrastructure, education, health, and farming. However, on the other hand, a number of problems are also present such as poverty,

unemployment, scarcity of clean water, and disparities between regions that must be addressed. In Indonesia, the interest of society does not seem to be the focus; reform is still limited. The questions lie on whether the reform eliminates poverty, enhances investment, improves the quality of education, increases budget allocation, strengthens authority, or increases financial incentives. In reality, reform must be contextual. The second form of bureaucratic reform is transforming organizational structure. With a hierarchical system, decision-making, and public services become hampered. In a highly competitive world, bureaucracy should be adaptive and responsive. The way of working is more focused on the problems faced and then decided and implemented collaboratively. The third form of reform is to encourage innovation in various government agencies. Dr. Pramusinto noted that the problem of poverty is not always associated with providing employment opportunities – it is also related to the proximity of families to their families.



Conference Plenary II Reflection on the theme and sub-themes of the Conference “The Role of Public Governance in Socio-Economic Recovery and Development Towards the Sustainable Development Goals”

This plenary was chaired by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Ba Chien**, President, NAPA and co-chaired by **Professor Emeritus Dr. Alex Brillantes, Jr.**, Secretary-General, EROPA. Dr. Nguyen has noted that to build effective governance, all nations must follow the SDG. All stakeholders must participate, and solutions must be available at the national and local level. The plenary therefore presented various experiences of their respective countries in the hope to bring perspective to other nations present in the conference.





The first presentation was delivered by **Dr. Amporn Tamronglak**, President, Public Administration Association of Thailand, and President, Asia-Pacific Society for Public Affairs, where she mentioned that the mission of Thailand in the next 20 years is to make Thailand a developed country with security, prosperity, and sustainability in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. To achieve security, prosperity, and sustainability, Thailand must focus on the six key strategies: security, competitiveness enhancement, development and empowerment human capital, broadening opportunity and equality in society, environmentally friendly growth, and reforming government administration. She then noted that like other countries, Thailand is also expanding its digital infrastructure through the Digital Government Policy: Digital Ecosystem, One Stop Service, and e-Service. These were made possible through regulatory reform and law drafting for enhancing e-service. In the new normal, Thailand faces challenges such as new way of communicating, working/doing, thinking, winning, living, and expectation. Therefore, the plan has been changed towards SDG to make the country more competitive, more transparent, and increase public participation. She also reiterated that to

achieve security, prosperity, and sustainability, key success factors were identified: People, Process, and Technology.



Her presentation was followed by **Mr. Kenneth Sim**, Dean, Chandler Academy of Governance, Singapore. He started by emphasizing that public trust is a very timely and important issue because nowadays, the trust in government is very low. It is worrying that the trust in business is higher than that of government; the government's interest is the disadvantaged, and profit for business. To regain government trust, the people should believe that the government is ethical and capable.



Studies found that the government that is unethical is not capacitated, while NGOs and businesses were found to be more ethical and capable. He also highlighted that Good Government Index Pillars must always be observed to regain the trust of the people: Leadership and Foresight, Robust Laws and Policies, Strong Institutions, Financial Stewardship, Attractive Marketplace, Global Influence

and Reputation, and Helping People Rise. And to increase trust, a nation must develop leaders, organization, systems, and skills. Government leaders must be ethical stewards, government organizations and systems must be improved, as well as the skills for policy design and execution.



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Mr. Kenneth Sim

While the presentation of **Dr. Dougro Lee**, President, Korean Association for Public Administration (KAPA) and **Dr. Gyeguen Shin**, Director, General Affairs, KAPA focused more on the vision of KAPA in academe particularly in achieving the SDGs. He emphasized the key roles of public administration scholars and practitioners to achieve SDG goals: (1) Critical access of existing

policies and proposing innovative solutions that align with the SDGs; (2) Identifying areas in need of institutional; (3) Coordinating collaboration among governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector; and (4) Shaping the minds of future leaders and public servants. He also emphasized that to bring SDG to the academia, the Global Summit on Public Administration (GSPA) was developed and conducted to serve as a platform in strengthening relationship of Korea with other nations, regardless of geographical differences.



The presentation of **Dr. Prabhat Datta**, Adjunct Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, Xavier Law School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, highlighted that SDGs offer an innovative and transformative vision and perspective centered on 'leaving no one behind'. Gender equality figures prominently in this vision. But around the world, from politics to entertainment to the workplace, women and girls are largely underrepresented. The Asian experience confirms the significance of "female reservation quota." Countries such as

Afghanistan, Nepal allocating 30 per cent of the total seats for women in national parliaments, whereas Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan have introduced one third reservation quota for women in local government bodies. Studies found that woman changed their minds when there are women elected representatives. It generates their interest in taking part in politics. However, women leaders often struggle to manage work and family duties, and their perceived limited knowledge of their job profile complicates their functioning. Torn between two loyalties, some surrender to the family's demands of staying at home and foregoing responsibilities.



In this process of working together women learn from each other, and are exposed to each other's work, problems and private life resulting in solidarity. It also empowers women because the very act of going out of the village to attend the meetings of the network is itself an empowering process. Lastly, they help fight against patriarchy and patriarchal institutions.



Conference Plenary III Building Public Governance Capacity to Promote Socio- Economic Recovery and Development

This plenary was chaired by **Dr. Vincent Wong**, Chair, Resolutions Committee, EROPA and co-chaired by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Luong Thanh Cuong**, Vice-President, NAPA. This plenary has showcased the various experiences of the academe, government, civil society, and private sector on strengthening the public governance capacity mainly towards digitalization and leadership.



The presentation of **Dr. Woothisarn Tanchai**, President, University Council Nakhon Pathom Rajabhat University, discussed how the world has been thriving in a VUCA world particularly in the midst of COVID-19. The world had taken a

hard turn making the global situation hard to analyze, response to, or plan for. To keep up with this, the nations must change their socio-economic structure. Nations must address first the global issues prevalent across the globe: technology, climate change, demographic change, urbanization, human right movement, inequality issue, information society, and social network.



He also mentioned that Thailand has been facing digital and education divides, competition for fair market, generation gap, accessibility in technology, capacity of people to utilize technology, public sector reform capability, widening gap on socio-economic status, and rising corruption perception index ranking. In order to resolve this, the public sector must work on its future goals wading on the world full of Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity, by having Vision, Understanding, Clarify, Adaptability/Agility.



Firstly, Thailand must focus on data and digital utilization, new paradigm in

public services (public-private-people partnership, multidisciplinary approach, collaborative governance, decentralization concept, area-based management, connected function, restructuring public sector and legal reform (new function, new law and regulation), universal coverage, and internal management capability reform. Secondly, solving disruptions must be focused on the SDGs, the 5Ps, data driven decision-making, multi-disciplinary policy-making, innovation and research development, and responsive governments. Lastly, government reforms must be conducted by re-energizing and re-inventing possible future trends.



While the presentation of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eduardo Araral, Jr.**, National University of Singapore focused on the secrets of Singapore when it comes to retaining public servants in their government. He discussed first how the Singapore government manages its talent by categorizing them in accordance with their career paths. Second is talent management and development where public servants have general and sectoral training depending on specialization. Only the top servants get accepted and retained. Next is leadership development wherein there is mandatory mentoring and coaching by senior officers and expert mentoring, milestone training for higher level appointments, networking opportunities, inter-agency project

teams, and post-graduate and continuous education. He highlighted that at the minimum, it takes about 20-30 years for the administrative officers of Singapore to get to that entry-level position. In Singapore, only the 20% get rewarded and promoted. The performance of the public servant is assessed in terms of teamwork, quality of work, organizational ability, initiatives taken, and knowledge. Promotion is not always conducted every year and it takes education and effort before someone gets promoted. As of the moment, the Singapore government sees potential in its public servants on strategic thinking, intellectual qualities, results orientation, and leadership qualities.



The last presentation by **Ms. Amor Maclang**, Convenor, Digital Pilipinas, focused on digitalizing the local government units.



In her talk, she emphasized that technology and new media should be utilized in the government to improve public services such as eradicating corruption and ensuring ease of doing

business. The role of businesses and startups (unicorn companies worth 1 billion USD) must be leveraged to support government reform especially in digital transformation. She then highlighted that building an enabling policy environment for digital ecosystem is key for transformation. Data exchange in real time between local governments is imperative for data-driven decision-making. Interoperability of information systems for public service such as health is important. She ended her speech reiterating that in innovation, policymakers must be willing to take risks and get out of the box.



Building an enabling policy environment for digital ecosystem is key for transformation.

Ms. Amor Maclang

Conference Plenary IV Renewal of Local Governance Towards the Sustainable Development Goals: International Experience and Implications for Vietnam

This plenary was chaired by **Professor Emeritus Dr. Alex Brillantes, Jr.**, Secretary General, EROPA, and co-chaired by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Ba Chien**, President, NAPA. This plenary was designed to showcase the local government experiences from various perspective of countries with the goal of drawing possible policy recommendations for Viet Nam.

The presentation of **Hon. Dakila Carlo Cua**, President, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, and Governor, Quirino Province, has emphasized that the SDGs are important to the Philippines. Thus, it was incorporated into the Philippine Development Plans and Local Development Plans. Still, challenges remain, such as poverty, gender, supply of clean water, and renewable energy. We strive for sustainable cities and a good quality of life. The COVID-19 pandemic even brought more challenges that affected our gains over the years. Hence, renewal of local governance for SDGs is key.

He also highlighted that the horizontal and vertical decentralization and cooperation are important. Sectors such as education, health, and welfare have undergone decentralization but national security largely remains centralized in the Philippines that's why the significance of local governments in national security must be stressed. He likewise noted local governments function as street-level bureaucrats. As middle managers, they translate national goals into actionable information in their localities. Leveraging governors as middle managers is key since they play a vital role in bridging the national and local levels in service of national security.





Japan's experiences were also presented by **Prof. Dr. Masao Kikuchi** of Meiji University. In his presentation, he noted that the Japanese government system is just like a “marble cake” where the national and local governments share many functions. Local governments are loosely defined in the Art. I and II of the Local Autonomy Law. The status of a municipality (local government unit) depends on the size of the population. The reasons for Municipal Amalgamation are to promote decentralization, manage population decline, respond to great demand for public services, manage the delicate fiscal situation, and streamline public goods provision. He also mentioned that in Japan, being a civil servant was a popular job for many young people in the previous years. Even male and female children (6 yrs. old) want to become state employees. But now [the 2020s], with the Gen Z, they mostly aspire to become Youtubers, soccer and baseball players. One of the big challenges that Japan faces is demographic decline. Also, many people from the rural areas want to be in the urban settlements, so few people are in the countryside. In Japan, decentralization has helped local governments respond more to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Fukushima Nuclear Crisis 2011. Also, there are good safeguards from the Nuclear and

Industry Safety Agency to help alleviate the crisis of radiation leaking from the plant.



Viet Nam's experiences on local government were also presented by various speakers. The presentation of **Dr. Phan Trung Tuan**, General Director, Department of Local Government, Ministry of Home Affairs, Viet Nam, has noted that streamlining the administrative apparatus of Viet Nam, especially at the local level, has been good. The outcomes of local governments in eight (8) localities have yielded good experiences, such as improving effectiveness and efficiency. He likewise noted the governments of urban areas and major cities had significant changes in activities, functions, and responsibilities. For example, the people's council at the district and municipal level. He also acknowledged that local governments must be capacitated and given commensurate responsibilities in budget allocation and human resource development. Hence, the government is boosting the decentralization process, especially in allocating power and responsibilities to local governments, and also renewing the civil service.



Local governments must be capacitated and given commensurate responsibilities in budget allocation and human resource development.

Dr. Phan Trung Tuan

The presentation of **Mr. Ha Minh Hai**, Vice Chairman, People's Committee of Ha Noi City, Viet Nam focused more on the situation of Ha Noi City.



He noted that Ha Noi recognizes scientific development as important; given its potential, it can leverage Science and Technology even to attain 2-digit economic growth. It aspires to be deeply interconnected in the [Southeast Asia] Region. For example, the Noi Bai International Airport is another one in the works, further improving the transport system. He then noted that Ha Noi can learn from Japan's experience in amalgamation. Also, decentralization and devolution can be further explored to improve governance. He then emphasized that Ha Noi envisions four pillars: digital transformation for improving governance, a digital economy for

progress, a society of trust, and digital citizens where people have strong confidence in the government.



In response to the presentations, **Assoc. Nguyen Quoc Suu**, Vice President, National Academy of Public Administration, Viet Nam, agreed that the local governments must be renewed because new needs must be addressed; however, policies must be tailored to Viet Nam's conditions. Dr. Nguyen also noted that they cannot use a one-size-fits-all model where the "same shirt" will be given to all provinces. Local governments in Viet Nam are rather passive and have to ask permission from the central government. Thus, decentralization and devolution are important so that they can undertake development efforts more effectively. It is important to identify the functions and activities of local governments in urban areas, remote places, and even the islands.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thi Hong Hai, Dean of Public Administrative Sciences, Faculty, NAPA also mentioned recurring themes in the Conference where Viet Nam can learn: decentralization and

devolution, digital transformation, human resource development, amalgamation, and reorganization of local governments toward improving harmonizing civil service criteria at all levels of the government.



As part of the policy recommendations for consideration of Viet Nam, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kristoffer Berse**, Deputy Secretary General, EROPA, and Dean, National College of Public Administration and Governance, mentioned the need to enhance human resource development in the public sector to ensure the recruitment and retention of the best and the brightest in the bureaucracy. As President Ho Chi Minh stated, in a time of revolution, there was no better time when women did not participate. He likewise noted that there has to be a revolution, not in a bloody sense, but in a peaceful way, where there is a revolution in our mindsets. Next is to accelerate the shift to a Digital Government at both central and local levels, encompassing integrated systems for hardware, software, and, most importantly, capacity building of human resources. He also emphasized the need to strengthen local government supervision, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure strategic alignment and operational effectiveness and efficiency at the local level. Further strengthen mechanisms for transparency and accountability, especially concerning multi-stakeholder participation and media

relations. This is important to build up public trust in the government. Lastly, to ensure that local governance needs are linked to localities' development and budget autonomy.

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kristoffer Berse

PLENARY SPEAKERS' PRESENTATIONS

Access the Plenary Speakers' presentations by scanning the QR codes or through the links below:



English Version

<https://qrco.de/2023EROPAConference-PPT-EnglishVersion>



Vietnamese Version

<https://qrco.de/2023EROPAConference-PPT-VietnameseVersion>



68TH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The 68th Executive Council Meeting was also conducted on October 16, 2023 where various EROPA centers as well as officers of the organization reported on their recent activities.

The reports also included the status of the financial standing of EROPA, regional and international engagements of the organizations, along with the future plans and programs for the succeeding years. It was also during the 68th Executive Council Meeting where the Council elected and welcomed its new set of EROPA Executive Council officers for the fiscal year 2024-2025. The newly elected EROPA Chairperson is Dr. Nguyen Ba Chien, President of NAPA Viet Nam, and 1st Vice Chair Dr. Xu Wei of the Chinese Academy of Personnel Science (CAPS) of the People's Republic of China. The positions of 2nd and 3rd Vice Chairs remain to be vacant and will reopen once the Council convenes again. The Secretary General, Dr. Alex Brillantes, Jr., along with the Future Plans and Programs Committee Chair Dr. Masao Kikuchi, Resolutions Committee Chair Dr Vincent Wong, were also re-appointed in their respective positions. The Council also recommended and welcomed the new Editor in Chief of the Asian Review of Public Administration Journal – the EROPA Deputy Secretary General for Research and Publications, Dr. Kristoffer Berse. Further details of the Executive Council meeting highlights will be available in the records of proceedings.



CONFERENCE GALLERY



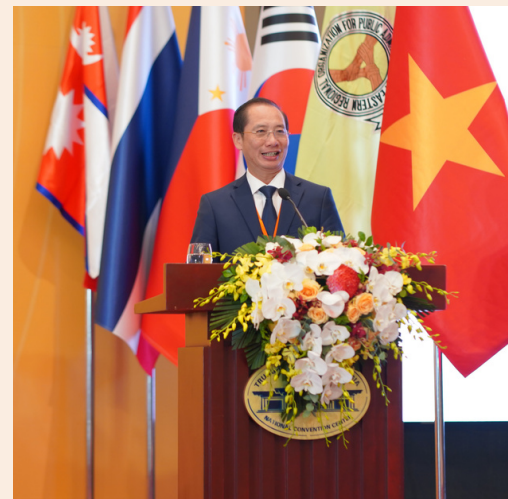
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