



EROPA BULLETIN

Official newsletter of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration

PREPARATIONS FOR 2015 EROPA CONFERENCE NOW UNDERWAY

VOLUME 36, NUMBERS 1-2

2015 EROPA
CONFERENCE
PREPARATIONS

ACTIVITIES OF EROPA
CENTERS

THE CHINESE ACADEMY
OF PERSONNEL
SCIENCE

THE INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF MACAU

E-COMMERCE IN
DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES

THE WORLD ECONOMY
SITUATION: HIGHLIGHTS

The 2015 EROPA Conference will be held from 17-21 October 2015 at Shanghai Administration Institute, Shanghai, People's Republic of China, with the theme, "Modernization of Governance: Reforms and Good Practices in the Emerging Markets." The conference is expected to gather hundreds of foreign and local participants, ranging from government officials, public service employees, academicians and students. There will be discussions on a number of sub-topics, namely: "The Roles of the Government and the Market: Experience and Lessons from the Emerging Markets;" "Decentralization, Deregulation and Liberalization: Market-Oriented Reforms and Government Capacity;" and "Managerial Innovation: Improving Governments and Governance."

The conference will also feature a Special Session on "Best Practices in Electronic Public Service and Governance," highlighting e-governance innovations. This is on top of the Asian Leadership Forum and Stories to Share sessions, which will tackle leadership ideas and insights from the perspective of high-profile government officials and policy makers, and from that of practitioners, respectively.



Shanghai Administration Institute, the main conference venue of the 2015 EROPA Conference.

The conference is hosted by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MoHRSS), and co-organized by CAPS, Shanghai Administration Institute and Shanghai Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau.

The 2015 EROPA Conference Organizing Committee has begun preparations for the event by as early as May 2014. Dr. Orlando S. Mercado, EROPA Secretary-General, joined the preparatory meeting with officials of the Chinese Academy of Personnel Science (CAPS) during the First International Seminar on E-governance in Asia.



For more information about the 2015 EROPA Conference, please log on to <http://www.eropa.org.ph/eropa-2015-conference.html>. Participants are required to register online at <http://www.rky.org.cn/cn/eropa/2015reg.html>. Registration ends on 10 October 2015.

EROPA CENTER REPORTS

EROPA Development Management Center

The Central Officials Training Institute (COTI), based in Korea, continues to strengthen its international linkages and training programs for public officials and academic institutions across the globe. This year, the training programs of COTI are geared towards cultivating a learning environment that promotes creativity in public service and is responsive to the needs of both local and foreign government officials. Under its new President, Dr. Dong-suk Oak, COTI continues to strive in improving the capacities and competencies of public servants within and outside Korea.

In the first half of 2015, COTI was able to accommodate public officials from different countries to explore possible areas of cooperation as well as to exchange knowledge and experiences on training and development for public servants. Among the programs conducted by COTI were: Capacity Enhancement Programs for Vietnam's Strategic Leaders; Senior Officials Training Program in Hanoi, Vietnam; and the Executive Development Program for Malaysian Government Officials. In addition, by virtue of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), COTI is working with Uzbek officials and the Academy of State Governance (ASG) is conducting a joint training program for civil servants, which will end in October 2015. This is on top of the regular Training Program for Foreign Public Officials, conducted 13 times a year and attended by 10-20 participants; and the five-day COTI HRD Leaders Forum.

Meanwhile, COTI has lined up many more activities for the next half of 2015. In addition to training and executive development programs, COTI will be organizing 2015 Global Leadership Forum and the 2015 Global Public Human Resource Development Conference in September 2015.

The 25th Volume of COTI Highlights, COTI's annual English magazine was distributed to its affiliate institutions across the globe. A PDF file of the magazine can be accessed at <http://eng.coti.go.kr>.

EROPA E-Government Research Center

In the first half of 2015, under the support of Chinese Academy of Personnel Science (CAPS) and the relevant departments, the EROPA E-government Research Center had carried out several activities as follows:

In order to increase the research capacity of EEGRC, the center decided to add Tsinghua University, Renmin University of China, Jilin



University and the Huazhong university of Science and Technology as deputy director units of the E-government Research Center Steering Committee. Deputy Director Units will support EEGRC in daily research and play a more significant role in helping EEGRC hold meetings and organize other academic activities.

Together with China National School of Administration, EEGRC developed an online training session on "Application of Electronic Governance and Big Data Training Course." This course is one of the ten sessions included in the "Chinese & Overseas Scholars talk about National Governance System and Modern Governance Capacity Course." This training session combined theoretical explanation and case study, targeted on Chinese public servant. Theoretical explanation and case analysis will be borne by Chinese and Overseas experts. Case studies are mainly focused on the Construction of Chinese Smart Cities and Online Administrative Approval. For now, the training session has been completed.

EEGRC is preparing for the Special Session on Best Practices in Electronic Public Service and Governance in the EROPA 25th General Assembly and Conference. Preparations included confirming themes and sub-themes of the special sessions; inviting scholars and experts in the field; finalizing the conference design and other related matters.

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DID YOU KNOW?

In 1978, the EROPA Development Management Center in collaboration with the Central Officials Training Institute in Korea initiated an Executive Policy Development Course. The Course was designed to provide senior executives with the opportunity to broaden their perspectives and enhance their capability in policy making. The Center, in collaboration with COTI conducted five sessions of this course.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION EVENTS

Future Perfect: Cities at the Forefront of Change and Development

7-9 October 2015

Quezon City, Manila,
Philippines

The conference is being organized by the University of the Philippines' National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG), the leading academic institution with respect to public administration and governance education, research and training in the country.

For more information about this conference, please contact the Future Perfect Conference Secretariat through telephone numbers: +63 2 928 3914 and +63 2 9257422, or e-mail: futureperfect.OC@gmail.com.

EROPA Local Government Center

The EROPA Local Government Center has been international training program under the theme "Local Governance" for the first half of 2015. This program is designed for overseas local and central government officials mainly from Asia who are engaged in local governance. It includes lectures given at Local Autonomy College and technical visits to different levels of local governments.

In response to the request from EROPA, the center has been conducting this program for the past 52 years since its establishment and has received 582 participants from 63 countries, of which 243 are from EROPA member states.

This year, the program took place from May 25 and came to an end on June 25. Fifteen (15) participants from 9 countries participated in the said program. They took part in a number of informative lectures on the various subjects such as Local Government System, Local Tax and Finance System and Local Public Employee System, which were given by university professors and high-ranking central government officials. Furthermore, participants made technical visits to different local governments. They also made a courtesy visit to an executive official of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. Participants submitted a perspective report at the end of the program to analyze problems of their local government system and proposed policies to address such problems using the knowledge and methods they were learning throughout the program.

This program has been well received as an informative and fruitful training opportunity which contributes to the further development of local governance in the Asia-Pacific region and promotes



valuable international exchanges among lecturers and participants.

This year, the Center will receive officials from Cote d'Ivoire and NAPA of Vietnam in July. Through this program as well, the EROPA Local Government Center hopes to contribute to the further enhancement of local government system and human resources development of the participating countries.

Meanwhile, the EROPA Local Government Center has been publishing Comparative Studies of Public Administration which is a collection of papers written by experts mainly from EROPA member states under the themes pertaining to the problems surrounding local governance.

Since 1984, the series have been published every two to three years with a focus on public personnel training, regional promotion, civil society, administrative reforms, governance, public finance, among others. The 12th volume will be published in September and distributed to the EROPA member states.

The Center hopes to continue working on this publication project at the same pace and contributing to the further development of local governance in the Asia and Pacific region.

THE NEWEST EROPA CENTER

The EROPA E-Government Research Center, formally inaugurated as an EROPA Center in 2014, strives to achieve its objectives by conducting comparative research studies on e-government policy and practices in the region. The Center also conducts collaborative projects among EROPA member countries, thereby giving e-government academicians and practitioners an opportunity to learn from one another. Moreover, the Center is expected to carry out technical support initiatives for e-government institutions in the region.

THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF PERSONNEL SCIENCE

One of the co-organizers of this year's EROPA Conference, the Chinese Academy of Personnel Science (CAPS) has been actively representing EROPA on behalf of its mother institution, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. Now existing for more than 30 years, the Academy takes pride in being one of the leading think-tanks and training institutions in human resource management and personnel administration in China.



The Chinese Academy of Personnel Science is a policy research and consulting institution directly under the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, People's Republic of China. It carries out various research studies in the areas of human resource management, public administration and civil service management, among others.

Among its objectives are to conduct theoretical and applied research studies on key research areas; provide technical assistance for policymaking in the Ministry; popularize research results; conduct postgraduate and postdoctoral education for civil servants; conduct local and international cooperation and academic exchanges; appraise and recognize research achievements;



and undertake publication projects in human resource management and public administration. The Academy also manages and supervises the Chinese Global Talents Society, a national research organization devoted to the study of international talent (human resources).

The Academy boasts ten research divisions, three professional laboratories and its Post-Doctoral Research Center. The State Council provides assistance to the senior professionals, post-doctoral researchers and experts working in CAPS. The Academy has successfully conducted human resource management studies in China and abroad. These were mainly funded by the National Nature Science Foundation, National Social Science Foundation, Ministry of Science and Technology, World Bank and China-EU. As of 2014, CAPS has completed over 644 projects, and has published 107 books, more than 600 papers and three research



collections, mostly in the area of personnel and human resource management.

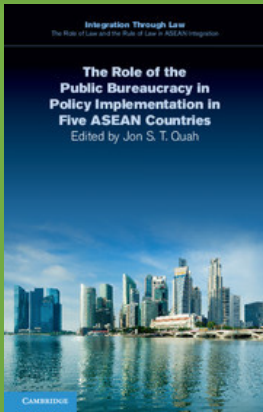
For more information about CAPS, please visit their website: www.rky.org.cn, or contact them at +86 10 597 62700.

INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

- Received more than 300 visitors from Thailand, Chile, Vietnam, Australia, among other countries.
- Sponsored more than 20 international conferences held in China.
- Organized the 2012 Conference of the Asian Group of Public Administration in Bandos Island, Maldives.
- Continuous cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Foundation in Canada, for research projects on human resource management and talent development.
- Organized the International Talent Forum and Seminar in Ningbo, China, for several consecutive years.
- Collaboration with international partners through study visits, joint research and seminars, etc.

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MACAU

UPCOMING PA PUBLICATIONS



"The Role of the Public Bureaucracy in Policy Implementation in Five ASEAN Countries"

Edited by Jon S.T. Quah

Contributors: Jon S. T. Quah, Agus Pramusinto, Nik Rosnah Wan Abdullah, Vicente Chua Reyes, Jr, David Seth Jones, Jairo Acuña-Alfaro, Anh Tran, Giulio Napolitano

- The first comparative study of the role of the public bureaucracy in policy implementation in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.
- The overview chapter by Jon S. T. Quah and following five country-specific chapters include detailed quantitative and qualitative analyses of the implementation of two ASEAN policies.
- Will be useful for academic researchers and graduate students dealing with ASEAN integration, as well as for policymakers and senior civil servants concerned with enhancing the effectiveness of policy implementation in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.

The Macau Special Administrative Region (Macau SAR), the last bastion of European colonization, is one of the prominent melting pots of Western and Asian societies. Likewise, Macau is also a crucible of different administrative and governance approaches. Operating under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework of the People's Republic of China, Macau SAR shares administrative powers with the mainland central government and is highly autonomous, by virtue of its Basic Law. Despite its small geographical area, Macau reflects local heritage as well as regional and international development, with its rich culture and remarkable economic growth.

The International Institute of Macau (IIM) is one of the renowned organizations that promote the socio-cultural identity of Macau as well as its role in the regional and international landscape. It was founded in Macau as a non-government organization in June 1999 by a number of Portuguese, Chinese and Macanese partners with the aim of promoting unity in diversity, cooperation, innovation and development. Its first activity, "Tribute Conference to Luís de Camões - Universal Poet," which was conducted with the World Poet Organization, set the stage for IIM to further open Macau's doors to the world. Since then, the Institute has conducted events and produced publications and services in support of Macanese heritage.

Currently, the IIM is guided by four main strategies:

- Contribute to the cultural, technical and scientific improvement of the people of Macau;
- Support Macau's academic institutions, researchers, associations and other professional organizations;
- Facilitate or co-organize seminars, conferences, lectures, video-conferences, courses,

classes, workshops and other collaborative activities; and

- Develop platforms for research and information, through internet access and creation of a virtual library in Portuguese, Chinese and English languages.

Aside from hosting Macanese socio-cultural events, the IIM also embarks on publications that tackle development concerns in Macau. Among the renowned publications are the "East and West" newsletter, published in Portuguese, and the "Mosaico," which had once discussed the state of public administration in Macau. The IIM also maintains close links with cultural associations that help promote Macanese cultural identity in different countries abroad. It has also established a delegation based in Lisbon, Portugal. With these projects and programs, the IIM is indeed able to strengthen the identity of Macau as a melting pot of cultures and progress.

Since joining EROPA in 2002, the Institute has been actively supporting EROPA in its activities. The Institute maintains its own website, which can be accessed at <http://www.iimacau.org.mo>.

For more information about the International Institute of Macau, you may visit the website or contact IIM directly through the phone: (+853) 2875 1727 / 2875 1767 or e-mail: iim@iimacau.org.mo.



E-commerce: What's in it for developing countries?

In the age of globalization and technology advancement, both businesses and consumers are increasingly turning to electronic commerce (e-commerce) as a more convenient way of selling and buying goods and services. Interestingly, developing economies are striving to keep up with the trend. The 2015 Information Economy Report predicts that Asia and Oceania region will account for rapid business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce growth by up to 37 percent in 2018, as shares of Europe and the US in the same area decline. The report noted that the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia are among the top developing economies that are most likely ready for B2C e-commerce, based on the B2C E-Commerce Index of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Among the benefits of e-commerce are greater contribution to the global value chains, wider market access and coverage, lower transaction costs and greater market efficiency. E-commerce also creates more jobs particularly in the ICT sector, and allows businesses to become more

TOP TEN ASIA-PACIFIC DEVELOPING ECONOMIES IN UNCTAD B2C E-COMMERCE INDEX 2014

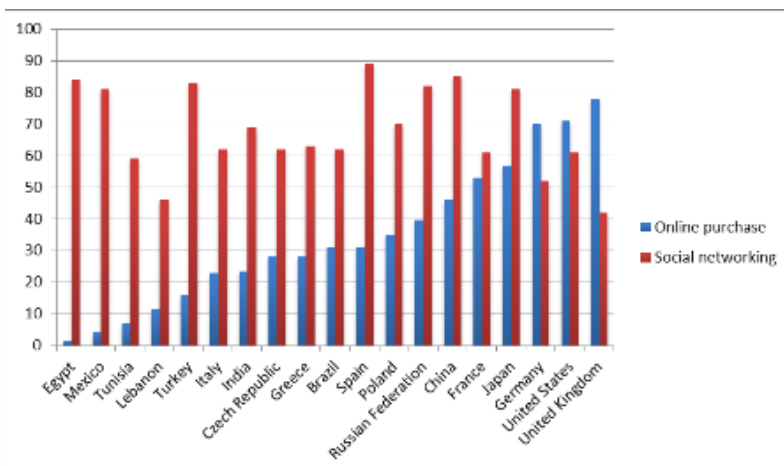
Republic of Korea
Hong Kong (China)
Singapore
Bahrain
Turkey
Malaysia
Lebanon
China
United Arab Emirates
Islamic Republic of Iran

competitive. However, developing countries in general may face a number of barriers that hinder them from maximizing the use of e-commerce systems. According to the 2015 IER, economic barriers such as weak ICT systems, lack of ICT use, high operating costs, lack of purchasing power, limited use of electronic payment channels and weak financial systems; sociopolitical barriers such as weak policy and regulatory environment needed for e-commerce; and culturally-driven apprehensions against e-commerce, are among the common challenges that confront developing economies. However, the report also indicated that governments and local e-commerce companies are slowly readying small enterprises to overcome these barriers. It cited the case of Bangladesh and Cambodia, wherein new online platforms have been developed to cater to local consumers. The report suggested that both national and international strategies for enhancing stakeholder involvement, particularly micro- and small-scale businesses, should be considered for developing countries to be able to maximize the gains of e-commerce for sustainable development. National policies should also consider important

barriers that hinder ICT and e-commerce utilization, and protect tech-savvy enterprises from cybercrime and other illegal activities. The report also suggested harmonizing ICT and e-commerce policies to fit international standards, and developing legal and judiciary capacities to address concerns in the field.

The 2015 Information Economy Report looks into the growth and progress of electronic commerce (e-commerce) in different countries across the globe, and scrutinizes the role of information and communications technology (ICT) in promoting economic and sustainable development. It features the E-Commerce Index of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as measure of countries' e-commerce performance. The publication also highlights best practices of e-commerce, issues and policy recommendations for furthering the e-commerce potential in developing countries.

An electronic copy of the full report is available for download at <http://unctad.org>.



Share of Internet users involved in online purchase and social networking, selected countries, 2012/13 (Percentage) (Source: UNCTAD, 2015).

Highs and lows of the world economy: highlights of the WESP mid-2015 report



Two highs, five lows—this is how Pingfan Hong, Director of the Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD) described the world economy in mid-2015.

In an article by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Hong cited the five “lows” of the mid-2015 world economy as the following: low growth, low trade flows, low inflation, low investment and low interest rates. Meanwhile, he also mentioned that the current global economy is marked by high equity prices and high debt levels. According to the mid-2015 World Economic Situation and Prospects report, the world economy is gradually

growing, and is predicted to improve from 2.6 percent in 2014 to 2.8 percent in 2015, slightly lower than what was initially predicted by the January WESP report. The report laments that the world economy had again registered lower growth rates as it had since the global financial crisis. This is mainly due to economic decline in a number of developing countries, particularly post-conflict or transition economies in South America, as well as weak investments as pointed out by Hong. Meanwhile, the report also expects the world economy to further increase up to 3.1 percent by 2016, but not without consequences. Growth gaps among countries and regions are expected

to widen as oil prices and those of other important goods drop, impacting mostly exporting economies.

Commodity-importing countries, on the other hand, are more likely to benefit from lesser inflationary, fiscal and balance-of-payment pressures brought about by lower prices. Aside from the recent US monetary policy normalization and the economic risks posed in the EU region, the report also warns of risks associated with geopolitical conflicts and other related concerns in developing countries that could potentially slow down the global economy. The WESP report highlights the progress and trends in the global economy, and gives an overview of the economic situation in different countries across the world. It determines challenges and opportunities in monetary, fiscal, labor market and trade policies, and outlines significant recommendations and possible solutions for sustainable development. An advanced, unedited e-copy of the mid-2015 report can be downloaded for free at <http://www.un.org>.

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