EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION * 1960 *

Map depicting locations of state (dark green) and institutional (green) members of EROPA

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE EXTENDS CALL FOR PAPERS

The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) Conference on "*Public Administration in Managing Global Megatrends: People, Public Services, Institutions, and Ethics*" will be conducted from 16 to 20 September 2018 at Sofitel Bali Nusa Dua in Bali, Republic of Indonesia.

Expected to attract hundreds of participants, preparations are being made by the 2018 EROPA Conference Organizing Committee. Individuals and groups of public administration students, experts, scholars, and practitioners within and beyond Asia and the Pacific region are invited to present academic papers, and share their experiences on PA and governance and its contribution to regional and global megatrends. The Organizing Committee is also inviting government officials, as well as representatives of various stakeholder groups to share their views and insights on the management of these megatrends. Outstanding papers will have an opportunity to be published in indexed journals. This includes the Asian Review of Public Administration (ARPA, ISSN 2094-408X), which can be accessed online: **eropa.co/arpa**

Due to insistent public demand, the abstract submission has been extended from 13 April to 9 June 2018. This is projected to accommodate more paper submissions for presentation and publication. In addition, the EROPA grants the Carlos P. Ramos (CPR) Award for the best paper. It consists of a certificate and a cash award. There are only limited slots for presenters. Therefore, all are encouraged to submit on or before the new deadline. An online registration system has been set up for both presenters and participants.

Provided there are issues with the registration and submission, as well as other inquiries, kindly send them to the conference e-mail: **eropa2018@gmail.com**. ✍

Landmark dates:

9 June
Abstract Submission Deadline

30 June
Notification of Abstract Acceptance

16 July
Full Paper and PowerPoint
Presentation Submission Deadline

16 August
Deadline of Online Registration

Want to join this year's EROPA Conference? Access the online registration system through the following links: **eropa.lan.go.id** or **eropa.co/eropa-2018**

CONNECT WITH US [f] [twitter] [youtube]

2018 EROPA CONFERENCE THEMES

People: New Approaches in Human Resource Management in the Public Sector

The dual pressure of globalization and localism forces government in developing countries to better understand the needs of their citizens and potential tensions in the society. Socio- cultural awareness, thus, had become a necessity for everyone working in the public sector. Meanwhile, the rapid development of technology must also be accompanied by development of human resource management in the public sector.

Sub-themes include the following:

1. **Enhancing human resource capacity to promote innovation**
2. **Integrated human resource management strategies for public sector**
3. **Policies and Instruments in human resource development**
4. **Maintaining employee engagement and motivation in times of rapid change**

Public Services: Challenges and Strategies for Delivering Better Public Services

Asia's population is growing old and projected to reach as many as 923 million by the middle of the 21st century. The number of population that once was a great modality of development will soon become liabilities when their access for basic services becomes poor. Meanwhile, more and more people are moving from rural to urban areas. Almost 200 million of them have gone to urbanized areas during the first decade of the century. Meanwhile, governments across the world are catching up with the rapid growth of technology through invention and innovation in the delivery of public services.

The sub-themes are the following:

1. **Innovation in public services delivery to cope with the megatrends**
2. **Policies on eradicating poverty and inequalities**
3. **Strategies to build an e-services: Experiences and lessons**
4. **Public services delivery in the era of sustainable development**

Institutions: Refining Governance Institutions for the Future

Knowledge-based economy needs knowledge-based approach to governance. Utilization of evidence-based policymaking, open government system, and e-governance is more important today than ever. Technological growth has helped Asia-Pacific countries survive the last two economic crises. Startups and tech billionaires grow rapidly in number. People become more aware of the strengths and weaknesses of their government. Governments have to equip their employees with capacities to master these concepts. In the near future, some of the known positions in government bureaucracy could be replaced by artificial intelligence.

Sub-themes include the following:

1. **Building social capital and social trust between government and the citizens**
2. **Governance approaches and sustainable development**
3. **Developing knowledge-to-policy and evidence-based policy**
4. **Strengthening public-private society partnerships to address common challenges**

A New Approaches in Human Resource Management in the Public Sector

C Refining Governance Institutions for the Future

B Challenges and Strategies for Delivering Better Public Services

D Redefining Public Service Ethics

2018 EROPA THEMES

Ethics: Redefining Public Service Ethics

The growing importance of social media has changed the way people, including civil servants, interact and voice their concerns. Is social media a private or a public sphere? How much freedom should government provide for civil servants to voice their concern through their social media accounts? Governments to-day have to deal with competing, wicked problems. Environmental degradation, economic crises, and demographic changes, to name some, have changed the way bu-reaucrats interact with politicians as well as with citizens. Do common public service ethics still matter?

The following sub-themes will be discussed:

1. **Managing integrity in the public sector**
2. **Shall we expand or limit public service discretionary power?**
3. **Lessons in the implementation of values-based governance**
4. **Contemporary public service values in the era of social media**

Why the Megatrends?

Megatrends are defined as import-ant shifts or movements in society. It was coined in 1982 in John Nais-bitt's seminal work with the same title. Four decades after its concep-tion, yesterday's futuristic fantasy may well be today's reality. ✍

NEW EROPA DOMAIN CONTINUALLY SURGING

A new domain name for the EROPA website was acquired on 4 January 2018. However, the work done goes beyond appearances and name changes as new features such as a responsive theme (works in desktop, mobile, and tablet), the development of user experience feedback, improved search engine optimization, and an expanded public administration news section are made available for all visitors. To date, visitors from at least 155 nations have been served by EROPA's online services.

The website has broken earlier forecasts during the first half of the year. It has ranked in the world's Top 0.1% of active websites as of May 2018, the highest since the website was launched in 2000. The statistics were derived from Alexa Internet and SimilarWeb. The website has also ranked nationally in the Netherlands, Cambodia, Greece, the Philippines, Japan, India, and Indonesia. The latter four are among the site's largest audience sources.

The initial forecast for this year is to achieve 150,000 website views and to reach 300,000 people through the EROPA's social media outlets. For the first five months of 2018, some 72,000 website views and 216,000 people reached have been achieved. This is greater than last year's record during the same period (January-May 2017), which amounted to some 49,000 views and 81,000 people reached. ✍

Top Audience Sources of the EROPA website (by country):

1. United States of America (26.1%, same)

2. Philippines (21.8%, same)*

3. Indonesia (7.8%, same)*

4. Republic of Korea (4.6%, same)*

5. Japan (3.1%, same)*

6. India (2.0%, up)*

7. Germany (1.8%, new)

8. Singapore (1.7%, down)

9. Canada (1.5%, new)

10. Turkey (1.5%, down)

11. Nigeria (1.4%, down)

12. Thailand (1.4%, down)*

Those with * are EROPA state members. The period covered is from January 2017 to June 2018.

Thank you for your full support. Visit the EROPA website (*eropa.co*) and social media pages today!

STRENGTHENING LINKAGES

WHAT BRINGS US TOGETHER

OECD Forum 2018

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held its annual forum on 29 to 30 May at Paris, France. Coinciding with the annual ministerial meeting on 30 to 31 May, the theme focused on "*what unites us?*", which took off from last year's theme of "*bridging divides.*" Around 3,000 participants attend the annual OECD Forum. ✄

UN Forum on Forests 13th Session

The United Nations Forum on Forests had its 13th Session on 7 to 11 May 2018 in New York, the United States. The session highlighted the importance of forest governance and forest-based solutions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. To date, some 30% of the earth's land is covered by forests. The UNFF was formed as a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) through a resolution in 2000. Membership covers all United Nations member states. ✄

NISPAcee Annual Conference

The 26th NISPAcee Annual Conference was held on 24 to 26 May in cooperation with the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iasi, Romania. With the theme "*Public Administration for Well-being and Growth,*" it was complemented by presentations from the organization's 11 working groups. It featured more than 130 paper presenters from 24 countries. ✄

2018 United Nations Public Service Forum

The United Nations Public Service Forum would be conducted on 21 to 23 June 2018 in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco. Focusing on "*Transforming Governance to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals,*" it is aimed to enhance understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals, increase capacity and learning on best practices in governance, and build networks and partnerships with various government officials, academicians, and practitioners among the forum's 800 participants. The EROPA is represented in this year's forum by its Secretary-General, Dr. Orlando Mercado.

2018 United Nations Public Service Forum (cont'd)

Simultaneously, the winners of the United Nations Public Service Awards for 2018 would be presented. For this year, 437 nominations from 79 countries were received, with Asia and the Pacific region contributing the most number of nominations at 210. Among the winners from the region were the initiative to reduce malaria cases through Early Diagnosis and Treatment (Indonesia), the initiative to establish an online fiscal information system (Republic of Korea), and the initiative to have an integrated approach in comprehensive cervical cancer control (Thailand). The awards began in 2003, and since then, it has been given annually to innovative and excellent initiatives on 23 June, the date designated by the United Nations as Public Service Day. ✄

2018 ASPAP Conference

The Association of Schools of Public Administration in the Philippines (ASPAP) National Conference was held in Roxas City, the Philippines on 25-26 January 2018. The theme focused on "*Institutionalizing Partnerships Toward Sustainable Development.*" Established in 1979, ASPAP is a national organization of colleges and universities with public administration and management programs. ✄

THE SHADOWS OF DIGITAL PIRACY AND THE LIMITS OF E-GOVERNANCE

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." (Benjamin Franklin)

In 2015, the online database Sci-Hub gained widespread attention for having some 28 million downloads worldwide. Meanwhile, Elsevier estimates up to a billion downloads from Sci-Hub alone. What exactly does Sci-Hub provide? Pirated research papers. As of 2017, it has around 69% of all academic papers. There are more websites just like Sci-Hub, which hosts not just papers, but also books, publications, and other content such as photos and videos. While it provides certain advantages, it incurs costs for many publishers. Especially for academics and scholars in developing economies, it is next to impossible to access necessary researches even through legal means. This can be related with the relatively low research output from these countries. However, it is also noticeable, at least from the Sci-Hub experience, that researchers turn to digital piracy regardless of a country's economic standing or academic achievement.

Everyone's doing it... so what?
A study on Sci-Hub alone shows that developing and developed economies alike participate in digital piracy. With this bandwagon mentality, the limits of e-governance are being tested. In the United States, which ranked among the top in terms of Sci-Hub downloads, Congress attempted to fight massive copyright violations through

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the Protect Intellectual Property Act (PIPA). However, intense opposition to the bills indefinitely postponed their passage. SOPA and PIPA critics, which included Wikipedia (the Free Encyclopedia), saw the similarity with China's "Great Firewall." For one, any user-generated content is in danger of being removed. This applies not only to Wikipedia, but also to social media networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. A related concept would be net neutrality, which assumes that all data are equal. Thus, one cannot intentionally block or take down content. Nevertheless, despite the relative strength of Chinese copyright laws, China ranked as the second largest downloader in Sci-Hub, next to Iran. They are followed by India, Russia, and the US. At any rate, neither relatively open policies such as America's nor the relatively closed policies such as China's can put a stop to the global piracy war.

Countering the digital pirates
A possible consideration that has emerged almost alongside digital piracy are the concepts of open access and free knowledge. Basically, both meant that no charges or restrictions are given for people to access content. It follows the principle that one writes to be read. However, issues are also present. Open access and free knowledge publishers would have to worry about financing. For instance, Wikipedia is primarily funded by donations, which amounted to USD 91 million in 2017. Another issue would be predatory or deceptive practices. Since content is easily accessed, yet funding scarce, it is difficult to determine the quality or the legitimacy of publications. Authors can be charged to be published without the assurance of services being rendered. Knowledge can be free, but its utility may be doubted. Still, can knowledge be free in a copyrighted world? ✍

STORM-FREE OR STORM-PROOF? FACING DISASTERS IN 2018

2014: India
Flood
$16 billion

2010: PRC
Flood
$18 billion

2012: PRC
Flood
$8 billion

1995: Japan
Earthquake
$100 billion

2004: Japan
Earthquake
$28 billion

2007: Japan
Earthquake
$13 billion

2010: Pakistan
Flash flood
$10 billion

2008: PRC
Earthquake
$85 billion

1996: PRC
Flood
$13 billion

2011: Japan
Earthquake and tsunami
$210 billion

2010: India
Flood
$7 billion

2013: PRC
Earthquake
$7 billion

1999: Taipei,China
Earthquake
$14 billion

2000: Japan
Storm surge
$7.4 billion

1998: PRC
Flood
$30 billion

1991: Japan
Cyclone Mirielle
$10 billion

2011: Thailand
Flood
$40 billion

1994: PRC
Drought
$14 billion

2009: PRC
Extreme winter conditions
$21 billion

2013: Philippines
Cyclone Haiyan
$10 billion

1997: Indonesia
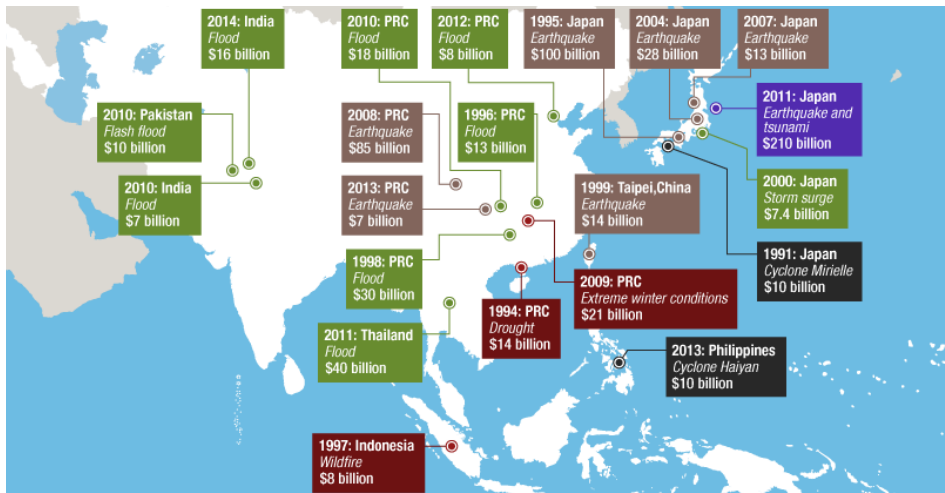*Wildfire*
$8 billion

Photo courtesy of the Asian Development Bank

The economic costs of disasters in recent years amount to trillions of dollars. For instance, a 2011 earthquake cost Japan USD 210 billion, while flooding in the same year cost Thailand USD 40 billion.

COUNTRIES RANKED IN TERMS OF DOWNLOADED PIRATED PAPERS

Country	Downloads
Iran	2,629,115
China	2,349,385
India	1,946,052
Russia	945,588
United States	714,082
Brazil	562,056
Egypt	515,190
Tunisia	487,720
Indonesia	461,345
Morocco	346,460

Downloads are based on statistics from Sci-Hub only. It does not take account downloads of papers and publications done through other online databases and repositories.

Asia and the Pacific is a region at high risk from climate change and natural disasters. Three of the five strongest typhoons in recorded history were experienced in the region. Meanwhile, two of the five strongest earthquakes were also experienced in the region. Cyclones or earthquakes reduced in frequency usually meant an increase in intensity. Thus, recovery from any major disaster would prove heavy enough in terms of socioeconomic costs, particularly for island nations in the Pacific which had limited fiscal capacity. Additional costs would be incurred in terms of disaster preparedness, especially due to the uncertainty when and where the next one will happen. However, this does not imply that being ready is futile. For instance, Albay Province in the Philippines has become known for its "zero casualty" program. Out of 20, it has recorded no casualties from any disaster in 18 years. Consequently, the Philippines adopted it as a national policy. As the saying goes, "*The cautious seldom err*." ໑

"*Governments are still slow to implement disaster risk reduction policies and they continue to react to disaster emergencies, rather than look for ways to prevent them.*"
Margareta Wahlström (2011)

NATURAL DISASTERS

FREQUENCY OF EVENTS

Country	Reported
China	34
United States	26
India	17
Indonesia	15
Philippines	11
Vietnam	10
Japan	10
Pakistan	9
Haiti	8
Mexico	6

According to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disaster's Annual Disaster Statistical Review in 2016, seven of the ten countries which recorded the most number of natural disasters are in Asia. In the same year, a total of USD 78.9 billion were the reported costs of such disasters in the region. The People's Republic of China topped the list in terms of reported events, as well as the number of casualties (1,335). Meanwhile, India topped the list in terms of having the most number of affected people (333.8 million). These data prove the disaster risks being faced by the region. ໑

EROPA
EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
BULLETIN

35th EROPA Executive Council Meeting and Seminar on Human Resource Development in Jakarta

The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) held its 35th Executive Council Meeting on 1 October 1988 at the Hotel Kartika Chandra, in Jakarta, Indonesia. In attendance were 29 representatives from 10 member states; the institutional member representatives from the Canberra College of Advanced Education and the Chinese University of Hongkong; the individual member representative who is from the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration and Dr. Mohd. Shahari of the Asian Pacific Development Centre. The meeting which consisted of two sessions was presided over by the EROPA Executive Council Chairman, Patricia Sto. Tomas and Vice Chairman Bimal Raj Basnyat.

In her opening statement, Chairman Sto. Tomas assured the body of her commitment to continue the tasks left by the elected Executive Council Chairman, Celerina Gotladera, and in her own way help chart the

meeting but with determined efforts promised that the formidable will be taken cared of and that enough time will be devoted to exchanging notes on the latest developments in the field.

Reporting on the activities of EROPA the Secretary General presented the highlights of the 12th General Assembly, 33rd and 34th Executive Council Meetings and the Seminar on EPA held in Manila in November 1987. He also reported that EROPA conducted a three and a half day Conference on ''Political Accountability and Redemocratization'' in Manila in January 1988 participated in by a five-man delegation from Towson State University; Dr. S.R. Maheshwari of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, College of Education and Asian Center of the University of the Philippines in Diliman; faculty members from the U.P. at Los Baños; and representatives of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Fund for Assistance to

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"Press on today, tomorrow, and the next day."

The **EROPA Bulletin** is the quarterly publication of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) featuring news, events, and trends in public administration around the global village. The Bulletin was first published in 1976, and it is distributed to a membership network covering more than 40 countries.

Share with us about your thoughts of the EROPA Bulletin through our website (*eropa.co*) or via e-mail (*eropa.secretariat@gmail.com*).

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The **Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration** (EROPA) is the premier organization where students, experts, scholars, and practitioners of public administration in Asia are connected as one community. Besides its annual international conference, EROPA has undertaken a number of seminars, educational and training programs, and various other activities to forward effective and efficient public service and governance.

EROPA was accorded special consultative status (formerly Consultative Status Category II) by the United Nations in 1966, received accreditation from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and is an active partner of the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN). This serves as a testament to the efforts of EROPA to reach the global village, and the strong relationship it has with the United Nations. EROPA was formally established by five founding state members (Australia, Republic of China, Japan, the Philippines, and the Republic of Vietnam) in its first regional conference from 4 to 10 December 1960. As the first organization in the region committed for the purpose, the EROPA has expanded since. Thailand (1961), the Republic of Korea (1962), Iran (1963), Pakistan (1965), Malaysia (1966), Indonesia (1971), Nepal (1983), and India (1985) joined the organization as state members. It also provides membership benefits and opportunities for individuals and institutions. Join EROPA today: **www.eropa.co/join-eropa**

Call for Papers
Be published in the next issue

The **Asian Review of Public Administration** (ARPA) is the biannual journal of the EROPA. It aims to "disseminate ideas, issues, trends, and problems impinging on public administration and related fields." It has been published starting 1989. Since then, it has become EROPA's flagship publication. The ARPA was preceded by the EROPA Journal, which was published in 1983-1984 in cooperation with Pakistan, and the EROPA Review, which began in 1960, and ceased to be published in 1975 after the discontinuation of the EROPA Research Center at Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam).

As we plan for the 2018 edition of the ARPA, we are currently accepting submissions. This must range from 6,000 to 8,000 words, including a brief abstract of around 100 words, and the author's biographical sketch. The process involves a blind review, and the Editorial Board has the right to modify the submissions. When published, authors will be sent copies of the journal containing their articles.

More of a reader than a writer? One can have a copy of the ARPA today. For a single copy, the fee is USD 16 (PHP 350), while the annual subscription costs USD 30 (PHP 600). Do not delay! To avail a copy or have a subscription, please contact the EROPA Secretariat through e-mail (*eropa.secretariat@gmail.com*) or phone (+63 2 929 7789).

For more information on the journal, visit the ARPA webpage: **www.eropa.co/arpa**