



EROPA LAUNCHES *STORIES TO SHARE: VIEWS FROM THE FRONTLINES*



EROPA Secretary General Orlando S. Mercado (center), chair of the Stories to Share session, share insights with the “storytellers”: Dir. Maria Luisa Salonga-Agamata, head of the Honor Awards Program Secretariat of the Philippine Civil Service Commission (left), and Hon. Tri Rismaharini, mayor of the city of Surabaya, Indonesia. (Photo courtesy of the National Institute of Public Administration, Republic of Indonesia)

31 October 2012 - Three respectable leaders/practitioners shared their experiences being in the frontline of public service and governance in a session entitled, “Stories to Share: Views from the Frontlines”.

The session was chaired by the EROPA Secretary-General Dr. Orlando S. Mercado, who gave the participants an overview of what “Stories to Share” is. He remarked that “Stories to Share” recognizes the old tradition of storytelling as a tool to pass on knowledge and skills from one generation to another. This “storytelling” session, according to Dr. Mercado, has now come to EROPA in a structured format, where stories are focused on the basic theme, which is administrative reform.

The speakers for this session were: Director Maria Luisa-Salonga Agamata, Director of the Public Assistance and

Information Office (PAIO) and Head of the Honor Awards Program Secretariat of the Philippine Civil Service Commission (CSC); the Honorable Tri Rismaharini, mayor of Surabaya City in Indonesia; and Atty. Maria Anthonette Velasco-Allones, Executive Director of the Career Executive Service Board (CESB).

Director Agamata, in her presentation entitled, “Honoring the Best in the Bureaucracy: Achieving Administrative Reform through Awards and Incentives”, related the experiences of the said agency in recognizing state officials and employees for their outstanding contributions and achievements in government service.

Meanwhile, Mayor Tri Rismaharini told of how electronic systems improved public service delivery in the city of Surabaya.

Lastly, in a video presentation on “Rekindling Pride in Public Leadership: the Philippine Career Executive Service Journey”, Atty. Allones narrated the efforts of CESB through the years to mold career service administrators and managers into Career Executive Service Officers (CESOs) that would in turn be “wellsprings” of competence, efficiency, expertise and leadership.

Launched in this year’s conference, “Stories to Share” aims to impart real-life stories on how administrative reform has influenced positive changes in areas within the Asia Pacific region.

BUREAUCRACY REFORM, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE TACKLED IN 3RD ASIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

This year's 3rd Asian Leadership Forum covered thoughts and perspectives of government leaders and public administration experts on bureaucracy reform and social entrepreneurship. Dr. Akira Nakamura, Professor Emeritus from Meiji University, chaired the special session. Meanwhile, two speakers shared their thoughts during the forum: Mr. Yasuyuki Maeba, mayor of Tsu City, Japan; and Dr. Mark Richard Hayllar, Professor from the City University of Hong Kong.

Mr. Yasuyuki Maeba recounted his experiences in pushing for policy reforms in the highly bureaucratic city government of Tsu. In his presentation, he stressed the significance of making both the citizens and government officials understand what policy reforms should be done and how they should be enacted. He based his insights from his experiences working in both public and private institutions in Japan.

On the other hand, Dr. Mark Richard Hayllar talked about the "Power of Unreasonableness: Thoughts on Sustainable Leadership and Reform from the World of Social Innovators, Changemakers and Entrepreneurs". In his talk, he drew insights from interviews, contacts with and writings of practitioners of social innovation and enterprises. He explained the current global development trends, differentiated the "reasonable world" from an "unreasonable" one, related the potential of social entrepreneurship to influence positive change, and enumerated the qualities that social entrepreneurs must possess to be successful in their initiatives.

The Asian Leadership Forum, which started in 2010, brings together policy leaders in the Asia Pacific Region directly involved in decision-making activities to discuss important issues on public administration and governance.



Dr. Mark Richard Hayllar (left, standing) and Mr. Yasuyuki Maeba (center, seated), shared their views on social enterprise and bureaucracy reform, respectively, during the 3rd Asian Leadership Forum, chaired by Dr. Akira Nakamura (right, seated).

FOUR STATE MEMBER DELEGATIONS DELIVER MESSAGES AT CLOSING CEREMONY

State member delegations from Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam gave their respective messages on the last day of the conference.

- Mr. Durga Nidhi Sharma, Secretary of the Ministry of General Administration in Nepal, said in his message that the main theme of the conference has been very relevant for Nepal, which is currently undergoing state restructuring. He added that political will, dedication and an enabling socio-cultural environment are essential for administrative reform.
- Meanwhile, Commissioner Robert S. Martinez of the Philippine Civil Service Commission remarked that the conference had been a good avenue for the participants to share best practices, strengthen regional ties, and gain a common vision of improving public administration in the region. He hopes that the insights gained from the conference may finally bear

(Continued on page 3)



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Mr. Durga Nidhi Sharma, representative of Nepal



Commissioner Robert S. Martinez,
representative of the Philippines



Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong,
representative of Thailand



Prof. Dinh Van Mau, representative of Vietnam

Four state member delegations deliver messages at closing ceremony (from page 2)

fruit by means of strengthening civil service and engaging the civil society.

- Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong of the National Institute for Development Administration (NIDA) in Thailand, in his speech, lauded the delegates for their valuable participation in the conference. He also remarked that the Thai delegation hopes to be more involved in the future activities of EROPA.
- Prof. Dinh Van Mau, former Vice President of the National Academy of Public Administration in Vietnam, said that he highly appreciated the role of the annual EROPA Conference in enriching knowledge on public administration for researchers, practitioners, staff and even leaders.

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EROPA 2012 CONFERENCE FORMALLY CLOSES

After three days of sharing experiences and insights on the challenges of administrative reform, the participants finally witnessed the closing of the EROPA 2012 Conference on the afternoon of October 31, at the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Prof. Azhar Kasim, Chairman of the EROPA Academic Committee, presented and synthesized the results of the workshop sessions, which dealt with three sub-themes: a) structures and processes in administrative reform; b) enhancing public trust and preventing corruption through fostering public value and accountability; and c) role of ICT in administrative reform.

For theme A, Prof. Kasim noted that many factors could influence public administration performance. Among these are environmental-political systems, legal systems, culture leadership, quality, and structure as well as processes of civil service. He stressed that strong visionary leadership and citizen participation are needed for administrative reforms to be effective.

Prof. Kasim then shared insights from theme B by highlighting the importance of values, ethics and accountability as essential components of organizational culture. He implied that transparency is also important in engaging citizens to evaluate and assess government activities, making them part



Dr. Azhar Kasim synthesizes the results of the simultaneous workshop sessions held in line with the theme, “Challenges to Administrative Reform: Learning from the Past and in Search of Excellence in the Future”. (Photo courtesy of the National Institute of Public Administration, Republic of Indonesia)

of the implementation as well as checks and balances mechanism. This, according to Prof. Kasim, could in turn increase public trust and integrity in the government.

Lastly, Prof. Kasim summarized theme C, implying that with the use of information and communications technology (ICT), administrative reform should allow the government to work efficiently. He said that e-government systems could boost transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency.

He concluded the synthesis by pointing out the different structural problems both at the macro- (organizational) and micro (individual)-levels, which call for different leverage solutions. He stressed that these solutions should be in harmony with each other. Finally, he urged the need for dynamic governance, which allows institutions to think forward, think ahead and think across.

Plaques of appreciation were then awarded to the conference organizers and sponsors, namely: the Administrative Sciences Department of the University of Indonesia, and the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) of the Republic of Indonesia. The ceremony was led by Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong, Chairman of the EROPA Executive Council.



Prof. Dr. Eko Prasjo, Vice Minister of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform of the Republic of Indonesia, addresses the participants with his closing remarks.

(Continued on page 5)

EROPA 2012 Conference Formally Closes (from page 4)

Representatives of state member delegations from Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam then gave their respective messages. They are: Mr. Durga Nidhi Sharma, Secretary of the Ministry of General Administration in Nepal; Commissioner Robert S. Martinez of the Philippine Civil Service Commission; Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong of the National Institute for Development Administration; and Prof. Dinh Van Mau, former Vice President of the National Academy of Public Administration in Vietnam.

Following the messages from the state member representatives is a short speech from the EROPA Secretary General, Orlando S. Mercado. Dr. Mercado thanked the University of Indonesia and the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) for organizing the event. He then stressed that the youth, as the next generation of public servants, should also be involved in the activities of EROPA. He highlighted the launching of an online youth forum as a way to enhance the sharing of experiences and insights in public administration that has been made possible annually through the conference. Lastly, he hoped that as agents of recovery in governance, the participants in this year's conference can attend that to be held next year in Japan.

The floor was then given to the organizers of the upcoming EROPA Conference and General Assembly in Tokyo, Japan. Mr. Sumio Takimoto, president of the Local Autonomy College, presented the highlights, general information and tentative schedule of the 2013 conference.

To formally close the event, Prof. Dr. Eko Prasajo, Vice Minister of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform of the Republic of Indonesia, gave a short message. He affirmed that many experiences, expertise and ideas were shared during the conference. He also praised the organizers for their efforts to make the conference successful, and hoped that in the future, EROPA would be even more successful in its conduct of various programs and activities in the future.



Mr. Sumio Takimoto announces plans for the upcoming EROPA 2013 Conference to be held in Tachikawa City, Tokyo, Japan.

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EROPA 2012 CONFERENCE

DAY 3 IN PICTURES

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EXCURSION: BOGOR PRESIDENTIAL PALACE & BOTANICAL GARDENS



MORE PICTURES OF THE 2012 EROPA CONFERENCE WILL BE FEATURED IN AN **AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION** TO BE POSTED SOON IN THE **EROPA WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE.**

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