



EROPA

Daily Bulletin

2013 EROPA Conference

Tachikawa City, Tokyo, Japan

18 October

2013 EROPA Conference officially closes



From L-R: Dr. Orlando Mercado, EROPA Secretary-General; Dr. Nguyen Dang Thanh, President of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) and 1st Vice Chairman of the EROPA Executive Council; Mr. Morio Sakamoto, President of the Local Autonomy College, Japan and incoming Chairman of the EROPA Executive Council; and Dr. Akira Nakamura, Professor Emeritus at Meiji University.

In a brief closing remarks, Mr. Morio Sakamoto, President of the Local Autonomy College and newly-elected chair of the EROPA Executive Council, expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the different institutions and individuals that have made the 2013 EROPA Conference a success.

Mr. Sakamoto thanked the officials of the Local Autonomy College and other institutions that supported the conference hosts in their endeavors. He also thanked the rapporteurs and volunteers for their assistance and cooperation. He especially mentioned Dr. Orlando S. Mercado, EROPA Secretary-General, President Yuji Watanabe of the Japan Finance Organization for Municipalities (JFM), and colleagues from the University of Indonesia who co-hosted the 2012 EROPA Conference.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sakamoto hoped that the conference participants were able to draw insights from the papers presented during the different sessions of the conference, which was synthesized earlier in the program by Dr. Akira Nakamura. Lastly, he declared that despite his hesitation to bid the participants well, he wished them continuous health and success.

A post-conference excursion around the future Olympic Game sites, Odaiba, Asakusa and the Tokyo Tower was held a day following the conference.

EROPA holds 2nd GA session, approves future plans and resolutions

Distinguished members and officials of EROPA convened once again in the Second General Assembly on the morning of 18 October 2013. The Assembly convened with the purpose of adopting the future initiatives and resolutions of the Organization.

Professor Akio Kamiko, Chairman of the Future Plans and Programs Committee, presented the future projects and activities to be undertaken by EROPA. Among

these, he remarked, are the following: establishment of the E-Government Research Center based in the Chinese Academy of Personnel Science (CAPS), Beijing, People's Republic of China; and the proposed Membership Expansion Program of EROPA.

Meanwhile, Dr. April Dream Teodosio, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented the resolutions for this year. The new EROPA Executive Council Officers, future activities of the organization, as well as other declarations, were approved by the General Assembly.

A short awarding ceremony was then conducted in recognition of the efforts of Mr. Morio Sakamoto, President of the Local Autonomy College, and

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EROPA holds 2nd GA session...

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Dr. Akira Nakamura, Professor Emeritus at Meiji University, in contributing to the success of the Conference. EROPA Secretary-General Orlando Mercado, together with the EROPA 1st Vice Chairman, Dr. Nguyen Dang Thanh, handed the plaques to Mr. Sakamoto and Dr. Nakamura.

Meanwhile, the heads of state delegations from Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam each gave a warm message of greetings and felicitation to the conference participants. Mr. Durga Nidhi Sharma, Secretary of the Ministry of General Administration and head of the Nepalese delegation, affirmed that the conference was able to capture contemporary concerns in public administration, and that it has set new directions for nurturing public administration in the region. He proposed that EROPA explore more activities aside from conferences as avenues for the exchange of knowledge and best practices in public administration. He also suggested that EROPA should work with other institutions in designing educational and training programs that tackle different areas of public administration.

Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, Chairman of the Philippine Civil Service Commission and head of the state delegation of the Philippines, noted how the conference participants were able to witness scenarios of public sector reform in different countries. He indicated that this kind of reform is a prerequisite to enhancing government performance in the region. Dr. Duque referred to an article in Time Magazine to explain that youths today now have the power to change government systems through public vigilance. Thus, they must have a more important role to play in public sector reform.

In her message of greetings, Professor Nisada Wedchayanon, Dean of the National Institute of Development Administration and head of the state delegation of Thailand, explained that the conference delegates themselves, through their invaluable participation, have added to the significance of the conference to the improvement of the theory and practice of public administration in the region.

Lastly, the head of the state delegation of Vietnam, Prof. Dr. Nguyen Dang Thanh, President of the National Academy of Public Administration, recognized the diversity of the conference participants from different countries within and beyond the EROPA region. Meanwhile, he pointed out that despite the diversity, the delegates are bound by a "common concern of Peace, Safety and Prosperity". He believed that the cooperation and

consensus established by the EROPA member countries along this line strengthens the goals of EROPA toward enhancing government performance and modernization of public administration.

Dr. Nakamura presents 2013 EROPA Conference workshop results



In his report, Dr. Nakamura related that he was quite surprised when he learned that the estimated number of participants in the Conference surpassed the limit that he proposed to the Organizing Committee. He stated that this had implications on the progress of public administration in Asia. First, that the overwhelming number of participants reflects economic growth in Asia, and the emerging interest in public management and public administration.

Dr. Nakamura explained that the three G's of the quality of government—government (institutions), governability (management), and governance (policy)—implies three important G's as well: the coming of the "Golden Age" in Asia, marked by vibrant economic growth; "golden opportunities" for enhancing democracy in the region; and "golden junctures" for government agencies to initiate administrative reform. He hoped that the participants have gained insights on the development of public administration in the EROPA region, in the context of these three G's.

He lauded the officials and staff of the Local Autonomy College, EROPA Secretariat Staff, and the volunteer students from different universities in Japan, for their contributing their dedication, commitment and hard work to the success of the Conference.