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Secretary General Sto. Tomas Reports on EROPA Activities for Fiscal Year 2000-2001

EROPA Secretary-General Patricia Sto. Tomas highlighted the successful holding of the Hong Kong Conference 2000 and the 47th Executive Council Meeting, the expansion in organizational membership, and the continuing activities of the EROPA Centers, as

administration and improvements in public governance in the Asia-Pacific Region. Among the positive developments was EROPA's designation as an Online Regional Center in Asia and the Pacific Region by the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN).

EROPA Centers Cite Activities, Accomplishments

In its report for fiscal year 2001, the EROPA Local Government Center, under the Local Autonomy College of Japan's Ministry of Home Affairs, cited the successful completion of the 10th Specially Offered Training Course in Local Government from June 11 to July 27, 2001.

Ten trainees from 10 nations participated in the course. The Center also informed the Executive Council that as part of its research activities, it has published in August 2001 the seventh volume of its comparative studies on public administration titled "Local Governance and National Development." The Center is now working on the publication of the eighth volume.

The EROPA Development Management Center (DM Center) at the Central Officials Training Institute (COTI) in the Republic of Korea also reported the successful handling of a number of executive training programs for participants from both EROPA member and non-member countries.

In the same fiscal year, COTI was able to conduct a number of international training programs on human resource development and

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One of the significant accomplishments of EROPA was the holding of the Hong Kong Conference 2000. In photo are EROPA delegates and Executive Council members with Mrs. Anson Chan.

among EROPA's significant achievements in her report for the fiscal year 2000-2001.

She noted that amidst worldwide uncertainties, EROPA has continued to promote the study of public

Hong Kong Conference 2000

In her report, Secretary-General Sto. Tomas identified the successful holding of the Hong Kong Conference 2000 as one of EROPA's major

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achievement for the fiscal year. The Conference was held on October 3-7, 2000 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, with a total of 431 participants from 22 countries attending.

Hosted by the Efficiency Unit of the Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Hong Kong, the Conference focused on the theme, "Developing Asia's Public Service: Sharing Best Practice." Mrs. Anson Chan, Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong's SAR, addressed the participants in a keynote speech.

47th Executive Council Meeting

EROPA's 47th Executive Council Meeting was likewise successfully convened in Hong Kong, participated in by many country representatives. The Secretary-General briefed the council members on the activities of the organization for the past fiscal year. The participants also discussed corporate plans for the next five years, based on concerns regarding the organization's growth and direction in the future. Four areas of concentration were explored: (1) policy papers and research; (2) conference and symposia; (3) e-learning, group networking and human resource

intervention; and (4) networking and partnership arrangements with regional and international organizations.

UNPAN Accreditation; Membership Expansion

During the executive council meeting, participants were also informed of EROPA's accreditation as an Online Regional Center in Asia and the Pacific Region by the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN). UNPAN's website (<http://www.unpan.org>) gives access to information supplied by various online regional centers located around the world. Among the EROPA materials now uploaded into the network include articles and papers from the 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2000 issues of the *Asian Review of Public Administration* (ARPA), as well as highlights of the world Conference on Governance held in Manila in 1999.

The Secretary-General was also pleased to inform EROPA members of the organization's continued expansion in membership. The 47th Executive Council Meeting approved the admission of Group Members from Macau (1) and the Philippines (3); Individual Members from Australia (1);

Japan (3); Korea (1) and the Philippines (38); Associate Members from Belarus (1), Canada (1) and Samoa (1). Their admission brings EROPA's membership to 12 state members, 106 group members and 466 individual members.

Iran General Assembly

The report also noted the preparations that were made for what would have been the 19th General Assembly and 48th Executive Council Meeting in Iran last November 4-8. However, due to the uncertainty generated by the September 11 attack in the United States, the Assembly and Meeting were postponed.

Continuing Publications

In terms of publications, the Secretary General reported that the latest issue of the *Asian Review of Public Administration* (ARPA)—January-July 2001—has come out of the press. The latest issue features the second set of papers presented during the Hong Kong Conference 2000. The first set of papers was presented in the July-December 2000 issue. Three issues of the EROPA Bulletin (January-June, and July-September 2001) were also published. ☒

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international public information management. It also conducted Executive Development Programs (EDPs) for government officials from South Africa, Vietnam, China and Malaysia. All the above programs drew a combined total of 164 participants from 25 countries, including 118 participants from EROPA member countries.

Aside from training, COTI and the DM Center also published the 11th issue of the annual publication, the COTI HIGHLIGHT. ☒

2ND PARAGON Partners Meeting Tackles Human Security Issues, Policy Option for Next Century

Various issues on human security, including sustainable human development, human governance and conflict prevention were tackled during the 2nd Participatory Action Research to Advance Governance Options and Networks (PARAGON) Partners Meeting held in Manila, Philippines from December 10 to 11, 2001.

PARAGON is a regional program for governance issues in Asia. It aims to guide countries in overcoming hurdles in implementing reform programmes, particularly on human rights and development, public and private accountability, and decentralization and local empowerment.



At the start of the two-day meeting, Dr. Paul Oquist, UNDP Senior Regional Governance Advisor for Asia and Coordinator for the PARAGON Regional Governance Program explained the concept of human security, and outlined an integrated, holistic policy framework to achieve this. He also discussed the linkages between humane governance for human security and sustainable development.

Two major sessions were held to explore issues and policy options, one on the search for peace and human security in the 21st century, and the other, on major governance reforms toward human security in the 21st century. A third session was spent for group discussion on more specific issues.

In the session on the search for peace and human security in the 21st century, participants tackled the peace and human security conditions in various Asian countries, focusing particularly on the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. These countries' experiences provided the participants with insights on the diverse experiences in dealing with issues on peace and human security, given their different cultural and political backgrounds.

The session on major governance reforms towards human security in the 21st century tackled the importance of people's participation. Speakers from Mongolia, Thailand, Pakistan and CIET International emphasized the significance of people participation in the governance reforms that have occurred in their respective countries and its effect on the present level of accountability and transparency in their governments.

In the third session, the participants divided into groups to focus on issues and concerns related to the following: (1) economic and social policy and human security; (2) gender and human security; (3) peace and human security amidst

PROFILE

Flinders Institute of Public Policy and Management

The Flinders Institute of Public Policy and Management (FIPPM) is a non-profit body established within the Flinders University of South Australia to promote excellence in public policy and public sector management.

The Institute takes a strong inter-disciplinary approach in studying current and emerging issues on public sector management and public policy, utilizing the various disciplines within the University. It serves as a focal point within the University for teaching in areas of policy and management of government, non-government and not-for-profit organizations.

The Institute is responsible for the Graduate Program in Public Policy and Management of the Flinders University. With participants from Australia and overseas at the Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Masters and Ph.D. levels, the Graduate Program provides a rigorous grounding in the theory and practice of public sector management and public policy.

FIPPM also undertakes research, and provides advice and consulting services in related areas, particularly those that focus on major

changes and developments in public policy and public sector management in the coming 25 years.

Major issues of interest to the Institute include:

- leadership and decision-making in public organizations
- strategic management, managing the processes of transformation and change
- evolving structures and styles of Government
- theoretical and value issues in public policy; the implications of public choice
- policy analysis in a variety of areas
- best practice, performance and accountability, audit and evaluation ☒

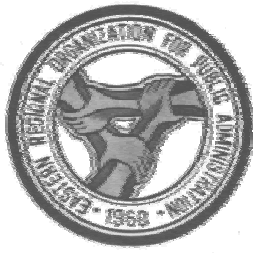
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armed conflict and terrorism; and (4) strategic policy options for human security. Each group presented a summary of their discussions and insights.

Dr. Oquist later summed up the issues presented in the group discussions. He stressed the importance of

cooperation and collaboration among nations in achieving human security, sustainable development, conflict prevention and better human governance. Likewise, he highlighted the role of globalization and information and communications technology in working towards these ends. ☒



The **Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) Bulletin** is published quarterly by the EROPA Secretariat to update its members of the latest news and developments in the field of public administration and governance.

EROPA is an organization of state, groups and individuals in the general area of Asia and the Pacific, which came into being in 1960, devoted to the development of public administration in order to advance the economic and social development of countries in Asia and the Pacific.

EROPA endeavors to achieve its objectives through regional conferences, seminars, training programs, special studies, surveys, researches and publications. Its activities are carried through the EROPA headquarters in Manila, as well as through its three regional centers, namely, the EROPA Local Government Centre in Japan, the EROPA Training Centre in India and the EROPA Development Management Centre in the Republic of Korea.

EROPA has been accorded consultative status by the United Nations, further emphasizing the cooperative relationship between the UN headquarters in New York and EROPA.

EROPA has also been accredited as one of the Online Regional Centers of the United Nations On-line Network of Regional Institutes for Capacity Building in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN).

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People, Places and Events

PUBLICATIONS

The EROPA Local Government Center in Japan has released the 7th volume of its Comparative Studies of Public Governance, focusing on Local Governance and National Development. The volume was edited by Dr. Akira Nakamura, distinguished professor at Meiji University.

Authors and articles in the volume include:

Janice Caufield. From Efficient to Responsive Government: Developments and Prospects in Australian Governance.

Mohammad Mohabbat Khan. Recent Developments in Administrative Reforms in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore.

Yang Fengchun. The Role and Structural Rebuilding of the Local People's Congress in Local Governance: Main Issues and Prospects in Current China.

J. Endi Rukmo. The Reform of Local Governance in Indonesia.

Osamu Koike. Local Government and National Development: Evolution of Local Autonomy in Post-War Japan.

Sulpicio Roco, Jr. and Wilfredo Prilles, Jr. Local Governance in Naga and National Development in the Philippines: A Study in Contrast.

Proserpina Domingo Tapales. Participatory Governance: The Philippine Experience.

Pham Van Diem. Local Government and Country Development In Vietnam.

Kosaku Dairokuno. Better Governance or Just Another Functional Adjustment: Local Government Reforms in Japan.

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VISITS

1. October 22-25. Three officials from the Sri Lankan Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA), accompanied by a senior IOG Consultant from Malaysia, visited the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG), UP.

The visit was part of a study on human resource management and development policies, program and curricula, and best practices of training institutions in China, Singapore, and the Philippines.

2. November 22-29. A 12-person delegation from the national Academy for Public Administration of Vietnam visited the Philippines as part of a study visit arranged by NCPAG, UP through EROPA.

The study group focused on Philippine efforts and experience in managing reforms. Aside from NCPAG, UP, the group visited the Philippine Civil Service Commission, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Local Government Academy of the Department of Interior and Local Government. They also interacted with officials from the city government of Marikina and the provincial government of Bulacan. ☒