

EROPA Gets Ready for 48th Executive Council Meeting, Seminar on Governance as Partnership

Preparations are now underway for the 48th Executive Council Meeting to be held November 10 this year in Bangkok, Thailand.

Following the Executive Council Meeting, EROPA will convene in the same country venue a seminar on the theme "Governance as Partnership: State, Civil Society and Market Organizations." The seminar will be held from 11-13 November.

The seminar will be hosted by the National Institute for Development Administration of Thailand, an institutional member of EROPA.

The 48th Executive Council Meeting is expected to tackle the strategic direction EROPA will take in view of the changes that have occurred in the global public administration milieu. It will also discuss administrative matters left pending since the last Council Meeting.

The Executive Council Meeting takes place a year after the scheduled bi-annual General Assembly, then slated to be held November 2001 in Tehran, Iran, was postponed as a result of travel anxieties following the September 11 incident in the United States.

That General Assembly would have been hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran through its International Cooperation Bureau, Management Planning Organization.

The decision to postpone the general assembly and to hold the Executive Council Meeting in another venue was taken after a referendum held among members of the Executive Council, and after majority of the EROPA members intending to participate in the Assembly indicated that they might not be able to participate.

In the referendum, Council members were asked to decide on

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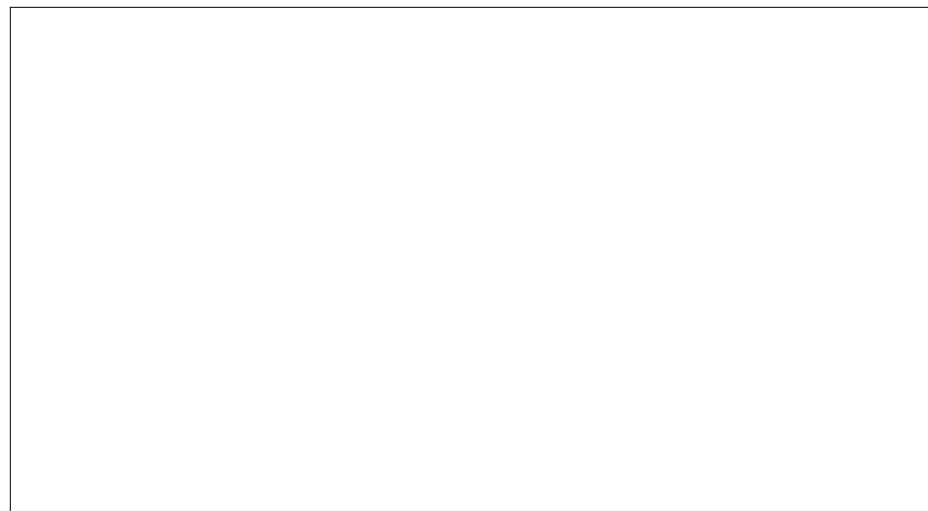
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EROPA Executive Council members in one of their annual meetings (file photo). This year's 48th council meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration Seminar
November 11-13, 2002
Bangkok, Thailand

Main Theme: Governance as Partnership: State, Civil Society and Market Organizations

Sub-Themes:

A. What Makes for Successful Public Sector Reform?

Papers in this sub-theme will document and analyze countries' experiences in introducing, implementing and sustaining public sector reform initiatives. These reform efforts may involve the participation of the state, civil society and market organizations. Accounts of these experiences may also examine the administrative reform processes for purposes of identifying forces that may promote or impede the success of these reform efforts.

B. Civil Society's Role in Rethinking and Forging Collaboration

This sub-theme will focus on the role of civil society organizations in rethinking and exploring new models

of collaboration between and among state, civil society and market organizations.

C. Decentralization and Local Governance

How has the policy responses to and the clamor for the greater decentralization of power from national to local government units affected partnership among state, civil society and market organizations at lower levels of government?

D. Fiscal Reforms and Good Governance

This sub-theme will examine a range of fiscal reforms in areas of taxation, budgeting and public debt management. It will also discuss mechanisms that engage state, market and civil society organizations in introducing policy and institutional changes aimed at improving the

countries' financial capacity to provide for increasing development needs.

E. Promoting Partnership through Human Resource Development Strategies

This sub-theme will present HRD initiatives, strategies and policies spawned by the intent of countries to introduce changes that are supportive of an openness to, and an appreciation of the value of greater partnership between and among state, civil society and market organizations.

F. New Technologies for Improved Governance

Papers in this sub-theme will address these concerns:

- What new technologies and technology-based practices have been adopted by these organizations that

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whether to push through with the original schedule and venue.

Majority of the Council members favored holding the Executive Council meeting in another venue and postponing the General Assembly.

Also, majority of EROPA members who have earlier signified their intention to participate in the General Assembly expressed concern on travel security at that time, thus deciding to withdraw their participation.

Some members also received official advice from their respective

governments to defer travelling until such time that the travel risks have been assessed and stabilized.

The Executive Council Meeting in Bangkok was finalized after the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) agreed to host the meeting in Thailand. ✉

PROFILE

The National Institute of Development Administration

This year's host of the EROPA Seminar on Governance as Partnership is the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) in Bangkok, Thailand.

NIDA was established on April 1, 1966 as a government-supported institution with university status in accordance with the Act of March 26, 1966.

NIDA began as the Institute of Public Administration in 1955 at Thammasat University. It is the only institution in Thailand and the region which concentrates exclusively on graduate studies in development administration.

NIDA offers education, research and community service through its School of Public Administration; training through its Training Center; and information systems education through its Information Systems Education Center.

The School of Public Administration offers programs both at the Master's degree level leading to an MPA (Master of Public Administration), an MPPM (Master of Public and Private Management), and at the doctoral level leading to a Ph. D. in Development Administration.

The School represents Thailand in both EROPA and the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS).

NIDA's training center is one of the oldest and best known training institutions in Thailand. The Center has recently initiated a Master's Degree Program in Administration Technology. It also offers some 50 training courses, categorized under four programs: development administration, management development, human resource development and management, and education and development.

For the next decade, NIDA aims to:

- satisfy its service receivers' needs and equip them with the knowledge and skills (in accordance with the curriculum objectives);
- be a regional academic leader in teaching, research, and academic services, which truly contributes to Thailand's economic and social stability;

Main campus of the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) in Bangkok, Thailand, host of EROPA's seminar on Governance as Partnership.

The Information Systems Education Center promotes the utilization of computer technology to its full capacity in compliance with Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Plan. The Center has expanded its activities to include teaching, training, and academic service.

- be an institute with efficient and effective management;
- increase the institute's potential for income generation from other sources in addition to the government budget; and
- build a network to generate, develop, and integrate a source of knowledge in order to achieve academic excellence. ☒



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 Institute for Capacity Building in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN).

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People, Places and Events

CONFERENCES/ CALL FOR PAPERS

1. An International Conference on the theme **Public Administration Plus Governance** will be held on October 21-23 at the Manila Hotel, Philippines. The conference is organized by the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines (NCPAG-UP).

The conference is a major event in a series of activities designed to celebrate its 50th founding anniversary as an institution of public administration education in the Philippines and in Asia.

Contributions in the form of papers for the following themes are welcome:

- Philippine Public Administration and the Role of NCPAG;
- Globalization, Localization and the Changing Nation-State;
- Privatization, Deregulation and Liberalization Policies and Practices; and
- Public Sector Reforms in the areas of decentralization, graft and corruption, public enterprises; poverty alleviation, government-civil society relations; and fiscal policy and financial management.

2. An International Conference on Governance in Asia with the theme **Governance in Asia: Culture, Ethics, Institutional Reform and Policy Change** will be held on December 5-7 in Hong Kong, China.

An invitation for papers has been issued by the conference organizers.

For more information, contact Dr. Anthony B. L. Cheung, Acting Director, Center for Comparative Public Management and Social Policy, City University of Hong Kong, 83 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon.

3. The Second Specialized International Conference organized by the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, India will be held 5-9 November this year.

This year's conference has for its theme **Towards Quality Governance for Sustainable Growth and Development**.

For more information, contact: Mr. Michael Duggett, Director General of IIAS (ias@iiasiisa.be) or Dr. V. K. Agnihotri, Vice Chairman of the Organizing Committee (vka@nic.in). ✉

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enhance their efforts at coming together for good governance?

- What characterizes the process of adopting these technologies?

- What lessons may be drawn from countries' experiences in introducing, ensuring acceptance of and meaningful utilization of these technologies? ✉