

PREFACE

This is our 3rd publication in a series of Comparative studies on Public Administration, "Comparative Study On The Role Of Local Government In The Development Of Depopulated Rural Areas".

EROPA (Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration) was established in December 1960 for the purpose of contributing to the promotion of economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region, through the development of administrative functions. It is non-governmental, international organization and has its head office in Manila, Philippines. EROPA activities are being implemented both through research provided by the general assembly, seminars, study groups, etc., and training courses provided by its professional centers in New Delhi, Tokyo and Seoul. Japan is one of its founding members and executes its activity mainly through Local Autonomy College, Ministry of Home Affairs which has Local Government Center of EROPA. Local Government Center established in October 1964 has implemented, in close collaboration with LAC, study and research, and compilation of information, material on the local government system and its practicality in EROPA regional countries. The Center has also implemented training for public personnels from EROPA regional countries.

We have already published 2 volumes of comparative study, that is "Comparative Study On The Local Public Administration In Asian And Pacific Countries" in 1984, "Comparative Study On The Training System In The Public Service" in 1986. Also we have published "EROPA TOKYO Seminar 1987 on Personnel Management in Local Public Service" in 1987. These 3 publications mainly treated with the system of local public administration, and this time we pursue the active role of Local Government in the development of depopulated rural areas, because, we assume, the role of Local Government in this field is growing more. Of course the definition of "depopulated rural areas" is different among picked up countries, but the knowldge of the local government system can stimulate reconsideration of the role of local government in respective countries.

I am firmly convinced that this comparative study will be of much help in understanding and promoting the local administration in the development of depopulated rural areas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Yoshiya Kakimoto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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