

PREFACE

This is the fourth volume of the Comparative Studies of Public Administration, a series of monographs edited and published by EROPA Local Government Center.

The EROPA (Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration) established in 1960 is aimed at improving the administration of public sectors in the member countries located in the Asian and Pacific region. The Local Autonomy College, a research and training institute affiliated with the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Japanese Government, has been in charge of EROPA Local Government Center, one of the three regional centers specialized in particular areas of EROPA activities.

Making comparisons with other systems is out of the most useful tools to review one's own system for the sake of reforming it. That is the reason why we have devoted our considerable energies to the series.

Of the three volumes of The Comparative Studies of Public Administration, the first volume in 1984 dealt with approaches to the study of local public administration in Asian and Pacific countries, followed by the second volume in 1986 on professional training of public officials. The third volume in 1990, entitled The Comparative Study of the Role of Local Government in the Development of Depopulated Areas, centered on the exodus of population to urban areas and the resultant depopulation in rural areas, which many developing nations are facing in common.

The present study marks the fourth volume of this continuing series. It pays special attention to the role of residents, non-government organizations and quasi-public agencies in local government. In every country, local public administration is, more often than not, a product of on-going exchange of ideas and actions between and/or among public officials, residents and countless non-governmental organizations. How they interact differ from country to country. In some, inter-actions are amicable and cooperative, while, in others, they are adversarial and conflictual.

In view of these diversities and relationships, the comparative studies are no doubt to help increase our understanding as well as enriching our knowledge of the emerging problems. We were fortunate to have been able to ask respectable scholars of various countries to contribute to this volume. On behalf of EROPA and the Local Autonomy

College, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to these contributors for their cooperation and efforts. We hope this latest issue will become another important contribution to our understanding of public administration.

Finally, we would like to note our special thanks to Prof. Akira Nakamura of Meiji University in Japan for his kind assistance in compiling this volume. Without his help, it would have been quite difficult for us to publish this volume.

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