

PREFACE

The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) began in December 1960 as a non-governmental organization. Its objectives have been to advance the economic and social development in the Asia and Pacific regions, through the promotion of the study, practice and prestige of public administration. Ever since its inception, the organization has maintained a central secretariat in Manila. In addition, it has been operating three regional centers in New Delhi, Tokyo and Seoul.

In Japan, the Local Autonomy College of the Ministry of Home Affairs has been heavily involved in many EROPA activities. It, for instance, houses EROPA Local Government Center. It has also frequently organized international seminars on issues relating to public sector management. Likewise, it has been publishing important works on the public administration of different countries in the region.

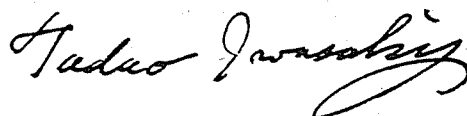
The EROPA Local Government Center has published four volumes of *Comparative Studies of Public Administration*. The first volume in 1984 dealt with different approaches to the study of local public administration in Asian and Pacific countries. The second volume in 1986 revolved around the issue of the professional training of public officials. The third volume in 1990 was a study of the role of local government in the depopulated areas of the region. The fourth issue in 1992 analyzed the relationships of residents, non-government organizations and quasi-public agencies in the Asian and Pacific local context.

The present volume marks the fifth edition of the series. This issue considers the problem of human resource development in both developed

and developing nations. This question has become important for sustainable growth in the next decade and beyond, human resource development is vital for both economic growth and social progress in any nation.

This volume should help shed some light on this issue in the Asia and Pacific region. In compiling this special issue, we are fortunate to have been able to recruit respected contributors from various countries. On behalf of EROPA and the Local Autonomy College, I would like to thank these authors for their cooperation and efforts. We hope this latest work will become another important contribution to the understanding of public administration in this region.

Finally, I would like to note our special thanks to Prof. Akira Nakamura of Meiji University in Tokyo for his kind assistance in compiling this Volume.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tadao Iwasaki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

President, Local Autonomy College,
Ministry of Home Affairs, Japan
Director, EROPA Local Government Center