

Preface

The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) is an international organization established to contribute to the advancement of economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region by bringing about qualitative improvements in public administration in each country. Japan is a founding member country since its establishment in December 1960.

The organs of EROPA are the Secretariat (Manila), as well as five technical centers: the Development Management Center (Seoul), the Training Center (New Delhi), the Local Government Center (Tokyo), the Human Resource Research Center (Beijing), and the Policy Studies Center (Jakarta). The Local Government Center was set up within the Local Autonomy College in Tokyo.

The Local Government Center implements international training mainly for public officials of EROPA member countries, research on/publication of local public administration systems of EROPA member countries, and other matters.

As part of these projects, the Center publishes “Comparative Studies of Public Administration,” a collection of comparative articles on local public administration written by researchers from EROPA member countries. Pursuant to a 1981 EROPA Executive Council Meeting, it has been published about once every three years since 1984. Twelve volumes have been published so far on the theme of important administration issues such as “human resource development,” “administrative reform,” “public collaboration,” and “fiscal reduction,” being rated highly as contributing to solving local administrative issues of EROPA member countries.

Volume 13 was published this time on the theme of “Local Governance in the Age of technological Transformation and Global Uncertainty.” The theme was selected to deepen consideration of the role that local administration should play amidst the need to resolve issues significantly affecting the socioeconomics of the Asia-Pacific region such as frequent natural disasters, while information and communication technology has been dramatically advancing and its use can benefit the local administration field of EROPA countries.

Professor Alex B. Brillantes Jr of the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance, who is a great scholar of comparative administration, contributed the prefatory note related to the whole main theme. In addition, although “Local Governance in the Age of technological Transformation and Global Uncertainty” is a very comprehensive theme, a comparative study was conducted in this volume by focusing particularly on three themes as sub-themes: “Policy Innovation and Technological Development,” “Natural Disasters and Local/Regional Resilience,” and “Public Service Deliveries and Utilization of Local Resources.” Excellent re-searchers from Estonia and EROPA member countries contributed articles on the above sub-themes, analyzing the initiatives and situation of each country from various

perspectives and with a deep insight.

For EROPA member countries, we hope that this collection of articles will be utilized for the development of each country's local administration. For local governments of Japan, we hope that it will be useful for international contribution in each local government such as receiving visits from overseas. For Japanese researchers, we hope that it will be useful for further research on each country's administration and for teaching in each university.

In conclusion, we would like to express our special thanks to Professor Alex B. Brillantes Jr, who contributed the prefatory note, and researchers of each country who contributed articles. At the publication of Volume 13, we also received enormous support and cooperation from the editorial committee chairperson: Professor Emeritus Nakamura Akira Meiji University, as well as the editorial committee members: Professor Agata Koichiro, Waseda University; Professor Takada Hirofumi, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies ; Professor Koike Osamu, Yokohama National University; and Professor Kikuchi Masao, Meiji University. We are indebted to Chairperson Nakamura and all the committee members for completing this great collection of articles. Thank you very much.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Japan Center for Local Autonomy (Jichi Sogo Center) for the financial support.

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