



EROPA BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

EROPA and NIDA successfully Hold the First Virtual Annual Conference

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The 2021 EROPA Virtual Conference with the theme, Public Governance for Inclusive Growth: Accountability, Engagement, and Digital Transformation in a Post-COVID-19 Pandemic Era was successfully held on August 2-3, 2021 with the National Institution of Development Administration (NIDA) of the Kingdom of Thailand as host. The conference focused on the following sub-themes: promoting government

accountability for inclusive growth; stakeholder engagement for inclusive policy making; making service delivery inclusive through digital transformation; and improving public sector performance through employee engagement.

The conference provided a platform for 30 PA scholars and practitioners to present their work and researches. More than 300 participants from different countries via EROPA's and GSPA-NIDA's official Facebook page actively participated in this first ever virtual conference. It has likewise become an avenue to gather scholars and experts from the various but allied fields of public administration and governance and consolidated strategies and opportunities for innovative public service and strengthened citizens' participation towards development. It also highlighted opportunities for possible collaboration among countries as we all incorporate resilience and sustainability in our efforts and strategies towards COVID-19 recovery.

The Executive Council Meeting was also held prior to the conference proper. The 28th General Assembly preceded the conference proper where appointments of the new Secretary-General, Alex B. Brillantes, Jr., and the 2022-2023 Executive Officers were approved and ratified.

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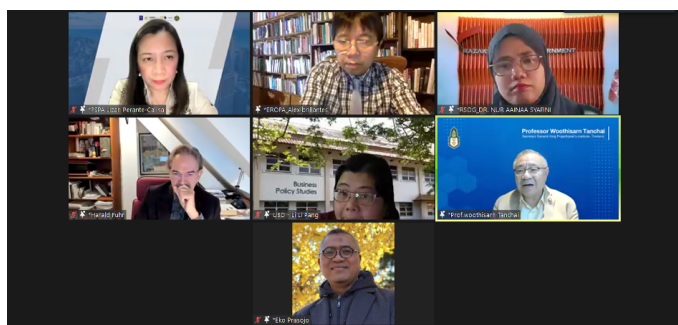
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The New EROPA Secretary-General

Alex Brillantes Jr., Ph.D was appointed by the Executive Council as its 6th Secretary General. He succeeds a long line of eminent Secretaries General since EROPA's establishment including Jose V. Abueva, Carlos P. Ramos, Raul de Guzman, Patricia Sto Tomas and Orlando Mercado. Dr Brillantes has a PhD and MA from University of Hawaii. As a PA practitioner and academic ("pracademic"), he has served as Professor and Dean at the University of the Philippines (and conferred UP Scientist in 2020), Executive Director of the Local Government Academy of Department of Interior and Local Government, Commissioner (Deputy Minister) of the Commission on Higher Education. He has published articles, book chapters and books on local governance, development administration and higher education in refereed local and international journals and has received the International Publications Award from the University of the Philippines nine times. Brillantes is also the immediate past president of the Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA).

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EROPA in the Virtual Talk Show with AGPA and IAPA on Pandemic



Virtual talkshow screenshot

November 20, 2021 – The Asian Group of Public Administration (AGPA), together with Philippine Society for Public Administration (PSPA), Indonesian Association for Public Administration (IAPA), Development Academy of the Philippines-Graduate School of Public and Development Management (DAP-GSPDM), and Universitas Indonesia, successfully held its virtual talk show on Public Administration Response: The Governance Perspective During and Post-Pandemic.

SANPA Hosts Conference on PA's Role in Pandemic



Plenary session screenshot

The South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA) hosted a conference with the theme, "Pandemic Effects: Exploring the Horizon of PA as an Academic Discipline and Field of Practice," last October 10, 2021. Public administration scholars from different regions attended the fruitful discussion. Professor Evan Berman, a Sao Paulo School of Business Administration faculty member, presented the keynote speech. Citing cases from different countries in responding to this global health crisis, Professor Berman asserted that the strong political will of central governments, especially the high officials, and effective coordination would play a key role in governance during these challenging times. Also, former UP Diliman National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) Dean and now EROPA Secretary-General Professor Alex B. Brillantes, Jr. gave a short talk on the COVID-19 responses of some Asian countries. They distilled the policy lessons that can be learned from them. Furthermore, Meiji University Emeritus Professor Akira Nakamura, the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Professor Inderjeet Singh Sodhi, and Panjab University Associate Professor Sidra Irfan spoke as panel members. The University of Alabama at Birmingham Professor Akhalque Haque served as the event's moderator.

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The roundtable discussion include speakers from University of Potsdam, Germany; Universiti of Brunei Darussalam; King Prajadhipok's Institute, Thailand; Razak School of Government, Malaysia; and EROPA.

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The virtual talk show was a free flowing discussion among the speakers, moderator, and selected participants who posted their queries to the speakers. The discussion revolved around the remarkable efforts introduced by the speakers' respective countries and institutions to address the unknown demands at the start of the pandemic; the current efforts in building back better; and the role of the academe in institutionalizing futures thinking and foresight in policymaking in preparation for future pandemic.

Various good and best practices as well as lessons learned were highlighted in the talk show from varied contexts and capacities of the invited countries. Participants were also engaged in the discussion as the speakers were flooded in with queries and insights both on the Zoom meeting room and on the Facebook live stream. This virtual talk show is one of the series of webinars launched by AGPA in 2021 dedicated for its efforts to provide platform for knowledge co-creation activities in light of the continuous challenge brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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EROPA Co-Sponsors the Largest Philippines PA International Conference

October 22-23, 2021 – The Philippine Society for Public Administration (PSPA) successfully held its by far the largest international conference with more than 700 participants from the Philippines and other countries. The 2021 PSPA International Conference with the theme, *Beyond the Pandemic: Reexamining, Reimagining, Retooling, Refounding, and Reenergizing Public Administration and Governance* focused mainly on plenaries that reinforces the vital role of public administration as a field in the continuous effort to build back better amid challenging times.

The 5Rs of the conference theme served as the main concept of each plenary with invited experts and practitioners with various organizations and international institutions such as the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG);



Post from the PSPA's Official Facebook Page (International Journal of Public Administration; FernUniversität; Washington Global Institute; University of Delhi; Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA); Asian Group for Public Administration (AGPA); Senate of the Philippines; Office of the Vice President of the Philippines; Indonesian Association for Public Administration (IAPA); Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Philippines; and King Prajadhipok's Institute, among others.

EROPA has been active in the conference and played vital role in organizing and moderating some of the plenary sessions. Through EROPA's Secretary General Brillantes, the organization participated in moderating the plenary on reexamining the state of public administration and special session on changing mindsets. He likewise participated as one of the keynote speakers together with AAPA and AGPA, where they emphasize the important role that regional organizations of public administration play in this global pandemic.

PSPA is the leading professional organization for public administration practitioners and academicians in the Philippines. It has been one of the strong partner institutions of EROPA in the Philippines.



Chinese Academy and EROPA Seminar on HR in the Digital Era



December 4, 2021 – The EROPA E-Government Center held its 2nd International Seminar with the theme, Developing Human Resources and Improving Efficiency in Public Administration and Governance in the Digital Era: Trends and Innovation. The conference was conducted in a hybrid modality – a combination of on-site guest speakers in Shanghai, China and virtual attendees via Zoom online platform. The conference was virtually attended by almost two hundred (200) participants from China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand, among others.

Keynote and plenary speakers were invited to delivery speech and presentations in the plenary sessions. Some of the guests were: Mr. Tang Tao, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Security of China; Mr. Guo Weilu, Chief Secretary of the Communist Party of China; Ms. Alicia dela Rosa-Bala, Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission of the Philippines; Dr. Agus Pramusinto, Chairman of the Civil Service Commission of Indonesia; Mr. Woothisarn Thanchai, Secretary-General of the King Prajadhipok's Institute of Thailand; Dr. Eko Prasajo, President of Asian Group of Public Administration; Mr. Alikhan Baimenov, Chairman of Astana Civil Service Hub of Kazakhstan; Prof. Yan Jirong of Peking University; Prof. Yang Kaifeng of Renmin University of China; Prof. Zhu Xufeng of Tsinghua University; and Prof. Hu Zhiping of East China University of Political Science and Law.

Indonesia Holds PA Conference on Society 5.0



On October 27-28, 2021, the Indonesian Association for Public Administration (IAPA) held its annual international forum to examine the developments in public administration. The theme "Governance and Public Policy in Society 5.0" was adopted in response to the increasing need for knowledge and skills in the current era. Technological advancements, the post-COVID-19 era, and people have merged into a structure known as Society 5.0. We recognize society 5.0 as a human-centered civilization that blends economic progress with social problem solving through a system that effectively links the internet and physical space.

In Society 5.0, social reform (innovation) will culminate in a forward-thinking world that breaks down present sentiments of stagnation, a community in which members have respect and understanding for one another across generations, and a society in which everyone may live an energetic and enjoyable life.

Many organizations, respected researchers, and practitioners attended this conference with EROPA as a co-sponsor. Amid a public health crisis, there was a series of comprehensive talks on how public administration may completely realize Society 5.0. EROPA and like-minded partners will work relentlessly to provide the groundwork for progressive societies in Asia and beyond. 🌍

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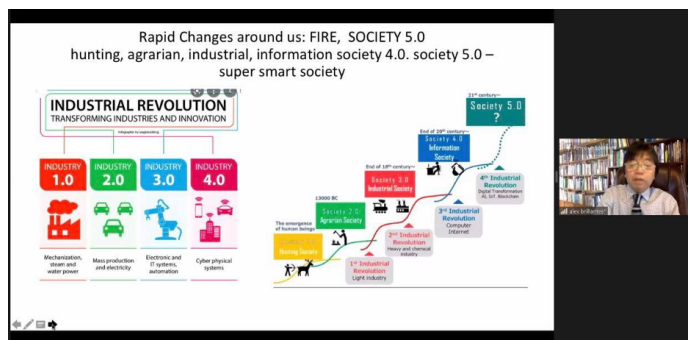
The parallel sessions also featured 16 research studies of academicians and scholars from China, India, Nepal, and Philippines.

This conference was in partnership with EROPA's state member China, through the Chinese Academy of Personnel Science, and the School of Political Science and Public Administration, East China University of Political Science and Law. 🌍

EROPA Participates in the First Philippine Futures Summit

November 12-14, 2021 – The Philippine Futures Thinking Society (PhilFutures) hosted its first ever Philippine Futures Summit, the first scenario and action-driven event in the Philippines, bearing the theme of *Paglalayag Tungo sa Hiraya 2050: The Futures of Education, Work, and Technology*. The Summit paved way in reimagining and consolidating strategies on how to shape the futures of education, work, and technology in 2050. It was attended by more than 1000 participants composed of practitioners, academicians, and young scholars from various countries.

With 52 renowned experts from around the globe, the EROPA Secretary General, Dr. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr. was one of the plenary speakers who addressed the Futures of Education plenary.



In this session, Secretary-General Brillantes presented the Futures of Education in Public Administration and Governance highlighting the rapid changes in the environment such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRE), and Society 5.0 among others. He also emphasized the importance of ‘changing mindsets’ to complement the efforts towards Regenerative Society 5.0. Other institutions that participated in this session are United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Senate of the Philippines, National Youth Commission, and other State Universities and Colleges who undergone the foresight and scenario planning workshop launched by the PhilFutures.

PhilFutures is a professional organization in the Philippines for foresight and futures thinking professionals. It is designed to ignite the *Filipino Hiraya* through the use of foresight and futures thinking as the one of the handles for education, advocacy, training, and research. PhilFutures is also one of the strong institutional partners of EROPA in the Philippines.

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Kazakhstan Conducts Conference on Public Service Development Cooperation

The Astana Civil Service Hub (ACSH) held its 8th Annual Conference in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on October 27-29, 2021. In keeping with its track record, ACSH, a well-known multinational forum for the ongoing sharing of experience and information in civil service quality improvement, organized a forum to bring together a diverse group of practitioners.

The conference's theme, "Public Service Development and Cooperation," focused on various aspects of public service delivery, capacity development, the latest public administration scholarship, and public service collaboration were thoroughly discussed.



Chiefs of civil services and experts from 40 nations and delegates from international organizations attended the assembly. Several large initiatives developed by the ACSH in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Safety of South Korea, the National Information Society Agency, and "Zerde" National Infocommunication Holding JSC were introduced during the conference.

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At a session titled "Professionals' Insights and Reflections," globally recognized scholars offered their perspectives on the development of public management in the post-pandemic era. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Chairman of the United Nations International Civil Service Commission, Mr. Larbi Djacta; Ms. Maya Tskitishvili, former Vice Prime Minister of Georgia; Mr. Drago Kos, Head of the OECD Working Group on Bribery; and other specialists participated in the discussions. Professor Alex B. Brillantes of EROPA also participated as a plenary speaker.

In addition, within the framework of the ACSH, which has become a renowned hub for the regular communication of experience and information in the field of public service, new perspectives, and opportunities for collaboration among various countries were explored. In this light, EROPA will continue to nurture its existing partnerships while extending its hand to new partners to positively shape the future of public administration in building good, prosperous communities. 🌍



SCAN ME

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LET'S UPGRADE EROPA!

The EROPA Secretariat is continuously looking for ways to improve its services and operations.

Your feedback helps us decide what kind of programs/activities to create and what improvements to prioritize among many other things.

To help make EROPA the best it can be, please feel free to let us know your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, etc. to info@eropa.co.

Thank you!

2021 United Nations Public Service Awards



Photo Courtesy of UN Public Service Awards

The United Nations Public Service Awards is a distinguished worldwide accolade for public service performance. It honors the innovative efforts and achievements of public service organizations that enhance the performance and responsiveness of governments in countries around the globe. The UN Public Service Award Ceremony (UNPSA) in the United Arab Emirates was rescheduled for December because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The announcement of the 2021 winners was set for June. On December 13, 2021, it took place in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, with the theme “Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the Sustainable Development Goals.”

There are ten (10) winners: Ghana’s Hands-on Mobile ICT Classes Project, Kazakhstan’s Encouraging Innovation to Deliver Inclusive and Equal Services to All, Kenya’s Output-based Aid Program, South Korea’s Clean Marine Environment Initiative, Romania’s Strengthening effectiveness of Romanian institutions and PCSD to reach SDGs (StrengthRO-SDGs), Mexico’s Coatzacoatz – Integral strategy of open government and intelligent city, Italy’s ACI mobility information system (Luceverde), Bangladesh’s Women’s Empowerment in Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP), Brazil’s Sports in the city, and Thailand’s Intelligent and Sustainable in Public Health Emergency System.

Further details on each awardees can be viewed through this link, <https://publicadministration.un.org/unpsa/database/Winners/2021-Winners> 🌐

UNPOG Celebrates its 15th Anniversary of Service



Screenshot from the 5th Regional Symposium

November 16-18, 2021 – The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government’s (DPIDG’s) United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) celebrated its 15th anniversary in its recently conducted 5th Regional Symposium on Effective Public Governance and Digital Transformation for Building Back Better. Since its establishment in June 2006, UNPOG has been a strong partner in advancing efficiency, participation, and transparency in the governments of its Member States. It has likewise contributed in the efforts to strengthen capacities of developing countries in terms of reinventing public administration and coping to the demands of the rapidly changing environment.

As it celebrated its 15th year in service, it yet again offered its platform, through the 5th Regional Symposium, for the discussion on the challenges and lessons learned in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); protecting effective governance and building capacities needed to address the global pandemic; understanding new public sector mindsets and competencies; promoting national and local partnership vis-à-vis localizing the SDGs; innovations for effective data governance for digital government transformation; and trends/approaches for risk-informed and resilient governance.

UN DESA, together with UNPOG, has been a very strong partner of EROPA as they both push forward the implementation of SDGs and highlight the role of public administration institutions and organizations in realizing sustainable development and efficient governance. 🌐

UN DESA launches Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals

Public employees play a critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our communities depend on them for medical care, education, clean food and water, and other essential services.



The COVID-19 epidemic has highlighted the critical and life-sustaining functions public servants undertake. The SDGs cannot be accomplished without them. However, many public officials do not have adequate resources to acquire skills relevant to the SDGs. UNDESA has responded by launching a Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs, fostering a comprehensive understanding of sustainable development concerns, improving governance skills, and raising public employees' awareness of their integral role in SDG realization.

The Curriculum is a set of tools for training trainers that contain ready-to-use and adaptable training material on essential policy areas required to achieve the SDGs. It offers strategies and tactics for gaining knowledge and assisting authorities in building the capacity to bring about the necessary transformative changes.

Back in 2021, EROPA Secretary-General Prof. Alex B. Brillantes, in line with the public administration's thrust of changing the mindsets of public servants, contributed an article in UNDESA's report "Changing Mindsets to Realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." The chapter's title is Strengthening the Role of Schools of Public Administration in Asia and the Pacific to Promote Mindsets to Implement the Sustainable Development Goals. This article is timely because schools and institutes of public administration serve as capacity development organizations and as dedicated spaces for the character and values development for future civil servants in all countries. Hence, their significance cannot be overstated. 🌍

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The *United Nations Department of Economic And Social Affairs (UNDESA)* has just recently published a very important document entitled *Changing Mindsets to Realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals: How to Promote new mindsets and behaviors in public institutions to implement the SDGs*. The publication was done in partnership with various public administration networks and scholars around the globe, including the Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA) that contributed a chapter on "Strengthening the Role of Schools of Public Administration in Asia and the Pacific to Promote Mindsets for the Implementation of the SDGs" It can be downloaded here, <https://tinyurl.com/UNChangingMindsets> 🌍



Call for Papers: Asian Review of Public Administration COVID-19 Special Issue

The Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic proved to be one of, if not the most, devastating global phenomena since World War II. As governments worldwide take the lead in responding to, mitigating, and resolving the crisis, everyone is reminded of the fundamental importance of effective, efficient, economical, and ethical public administration.

The challenge to overcome COVID-19 has revealed the strong and vulnerable sides of public service delivery across countries. The demand for better solutions to arising issues in this highly volatile situation has risen, too. Hence, scholars and practitioners need to come in to provide accurate and reliable information, offer valuable insights, and share good practices as part of knowledge exchange in this time of global crisis.

The EROPA, through its official publication Asian Review of Public Administration (ARPA), announces a Special Call for Papers on Public Administration and Governance Response to the Pandemic.

The topics that will be considered in the special issue are the following, among others:

- Ensuring public service delivery in the time of COVID-19 pandemic;
- Analysis of government responses to the pandemic;
- Service before self: Courage and humanness in practice;
- Quick-thinking, creativity, resourcefulness, and innovation;
- Reliable information and awareness as a critical service;
- Importance of data management in government response;
- Strategic thinking and planning amidst chaos;
- Sustaining resilience and building a more effective and responsive public service;
- Building and enhancing state legitimacy, government credibility, and people's trust;
- Resource allocation and distributive accountability;
- Inter-country collaboration and networked leadership;
- Public health system: Agility and responsiveness to a pandemic; and
- Government communication and advocacy strategies

We welcome submissions of original articles, policy papers, and commentaries on any of the above areas via publications@eropa.co or through the [ARPA website](#). For inquiries and clarifications, feel free to send us an email.

**We want you to be part of
our public administration network!**

JOIN EROPA NOW

and get **FREE** and **EXCLUSIVE** access to EROPA Experts & Practitioners database; recent issues of the *Asian Review of Public Administration Journal*, and more!

Applications for membership are subject to the approval of the EROPA Executive Council. For inquiries, contact the Secretariat through membership@eropa.co.

**ARPA VOLUME 30
will be out soon.**

The journal's publication was delayed due to the issues posed by COVID-19. It is currently being finalized for printing. Rest assured that everyone will be notified immediately upon its release.

Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Upcoming Events:



Capacity Development Webinar

**Effective Governance for Transformational Change:
Strengthening Capacities, Mindsets, and Competencies of Public Institutions to Build
the Next Generation of Public Servants in the Asia-Pacific Region**

25 January 2022
12:00 PM - 2:15 PM Seoul, GMT+9 | 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM Bangkok, GMT+7

Launch of the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs | **African Union**

Policy coherence in Africa in response to COVID-19

Regional Webinars in Africa: Resilience and Recovery from COVID-19 through Sound Policymaking

Monday, 17 January 2022 8-10 AM (Eastern Standard Time) 3-5 PM (South Africa Standard Time) Registration: <https://bit.ly/REWAFR3>

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DETAILS OF 2022
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CONFERENCE
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Recalibrating Inclusive Health and Economic Recovery in Southeast Asia:

From Zero-COVID-19 to Living with COVID-19

January 19, 2022 via zoom
10 AM - 12 PM

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Call for Input for the April 2022 Issue, Vol. 42, No. 2 of EROPA Bulletin



Cover Pages of the
Last 2 Published
Issues of the EROPA
Bulletin

ABOUT

In an effort to improve the quality and diversify the contents of the EROPA Bulletin, we are pleased to announce a CALL FOR INPUT for the April 2022 Issue (Vol. 42, No. 2). Please refer to the following provisional subjects for your consideration:

- Recently held events (e.g. conference, symposium, forum, workshop, training, etc.);
- Upcoming events (e.g. training sessions, workshops, and expert group meetings, etc.);
- Release and authorship of publications*;
- Public Service Developments* (e.g. awards or certification given to individuals or institution, appointments, etc.);
- Newsletter of your institution*;
- Commentary on a Public Administration Issue or Matter**

* The following are exclusive to EROPA members.

** The commentaries that will be submitted are subject to review and approval of the EROPA Secretariat.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION:

Kindly write a paragraph of the news or announcement that you would like to include in the EROPA Bulletin.

- For News Articles - Maximum word count is 300 words; Include properly identified photographs (if applicable);
- For Commentaries - Maximum word count is 800 words; Include a short biographic sketch of the author to be included in the commentary (Maximum word count is 80 words);
- Events – Recently held events must include the fundamental message of said event; Include properly identified photographs or publicity materials (if applicable).

Please send your contribution(s) to publications@eropa.co, no later than **28 MARCH 2022, MONDAY** – for it to be considered for the next EROPA Bulletin. Contributors will be informed accordingly upon receipt and approval of contribution.

LET US CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO
CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXPANSION OF THE
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

EROPA is a member of the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN). All applicable submissions will also be considered for separate publishing to the network. In addition, the EROPA Bulletin will be uploaded to the UNPAN. Your contribution will be of great value – not only to EROPA's members and their networks – but also to the wider audience of the UNPAN.

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ABOUT EROPA

The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) is an organization of states, groups and individuals in the general area of Asia and the Pacific. The Organization came into being in 1960, in response to a common desire among developing countries to promote regional cooperation in improving knowledge, systems and practices of government administration to help accelerate economic and social development. It was the first organization in the region to be devoted to the development of public administration in order to advance the economic and social development of countries in Asia and the Pacific. EROPA consists of state members in the region, institutions in the area such as institutes or schools of public administration, universities, agencies and municipal corporations and individuals whose achievements in the field of governance and public administration are recognized.

EROPA endeavors to achieve its objectives through regional conferences, seminars, training programs, and publications. Its activities are carried out through the EROPA headquarters in Manila, as well as through its five regional centers, namely the EROPA Development Management Center in Gyeonggi Province, Korea; the EROPA Local Government Center in Tokyo, Japan; the EROPA Training Center in New Delhi, India; the EROPA Human Resource Research Center in Beijing, China; and the EROPA Policy Studies Center in Jakarta, Indonesia. Activities of EROPA have been held in different parts of the region. Meetings, conferences and seminars have been conducted in Manila, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Bangkok, New Delhi, Seoul, Taipei, Tehran, Jakarta, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, Beijing, Macau, Hanoi, Canberra, Samoa, Bandar Seri Begawan and many more.

As one of the leading organizations in the Asia-Pacific region, EROPA has been accredited by the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) as one of its Online Regional Centers (ORCs). As such, EROPA serves as one of UNPAN's contributors in the Asia-Pacific region in keeping an updated database of public administration developments.