FY2021

Activity Report

February 2021

EROPA Local Government Center

(Within Local Autonomy College,

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

1.　Attendance at the EROPA Conference

EROPA Conference was held online over a four-day period from July 30 (Fri.) to August (Thurs.), 2021 on the theme “Public Governance for Inclusive Growth: Accountability, Engagement and Digital Transformation in the COVID-19 Pandemic Era” (The entire schedule is the tablet below.) Sixteen people listed in the table below attended the conference from Japan, including state representative Murate Satoshi, President of the Local Autonomy College and three Local Government Center advisers; Nakamura Kkira, Emeritus Professor at Meiji University, Agata Koichiro, Professor at Waseda University; and Takada Hirofumi, Professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies.



Since FY2014, EROPA Local Government Center has implemented the EROPA Research Conference Presenters Grant system that provides grants for young Japanese researchers who present articles on Japanese local governance at EROPA conferences. In FY2021, Fujiwara Naoki, Associate Professor at Otemon Gakuin University, Kobayashi Yuta, Senior Assistant Professor at Hiroshima University and Maeda Takahiro, Senior Assistant Professor at Ryukyu University received grants and attended the conference to make presentations at parallel sessions.

< Day 1 >

On the first day, July 30, the 66rd Executive Council Meeting began at 15:00. And the details of the meeting were about activity reports including EROPA special project from Dr. Orland S. Mercado , Secretary General of EROPA and about activity reports from each of the technical centers, from Dr. Edna Estfania A.Co, associate editor of the editorial committee for ARPA (EROPA’s organizational bulletin) and from Mr. Kikuchi　Masao, Associate Professor at Meiji University who is the chair of the Future Plans and Programs Committee. And Mr. Kikuchi who also served as the chair of Search Committee reported that Dr.Alex B. Brilliante would be well qualified to be the next Secretary General. At the end of the meeting, the representative from Nepal made a presentation on the FY2022 Conference.

In the meeting, President Murate made an activity report of the EROPA Local Government Center consisting

of the results of Local Governance Training (discussed below), which is implemented jointly with JICA, Half-day Local Autonomy College study tour for foreign visitors and Comparative Studies, which is a collection of comparative articles on public administration written by researchers in mainly EROPA member states.

< Days 2 to 4 >

At the beginning of the opening ceremony held in the morning on the second day, August 2, Office-in-charge of National Institute of Development Association(NIDA), Dr. Mercado, Secretary-General of EROPA delivered welcoming speeches for the conference. From the afternoon of August 2 through the morning of August 3, parallel sessions were held on each sub-theme, at which researchers made their presentations under the direction of coordinators. Researchers from Japan and their respective presentations were as follows:

1) Associate Professor Fujiwara at Otemon Gakuin University (Recipient of article presenter grant)

“Workation for Urban-Rural Inclusive Growth: A Countryside Telework Promotion Policy in Japan ”

2) Senior Assistant Professor Kobayashi at Hiroshima University (Recipient of article presenter grant)

“Coordination and Governance of‘Policies on Cohesive Society’ in Japan ”

3) Senior Assistant Professor Maeda at Ryukyu University (Recipient of article presenter grant)

“Issues in Recruiting Local Government Engineers in Japan”

3) Professor Kamiko at Ritsumeikan University

“Formalization of Tip-off System in Local Governments in Japan’’

At the closing ceremony held in the afternoon on August 3, Ms. Pawinee from Thailand was awarded Carlos P. Ramos Award for her article “Taxing you tiring me out: Emotional Labor and Job Performance among Local Revenue Collectors in Thailand”And during General Assembly, the following nominations were accepted; Mr. Lito for Auditor of EROPA, Mr. Kikuchi for Chair of Future Plan Committee and Mr. Alex B. Brillante for Newly Elected-General of EROPA. And finally the announcement of the schedule and theme at the 2022 Conference was delivered by Nepal, the host country for the FY2022 conference.

* As of April 2022, EROPA Conference 2022 will be held on September. The theme is “Governance and Public Administration in COVID-19 Pandemic: Learning, Innovations, and Reforms in Managing Global Changes”



2.　Implementation of Local Governance Training

This training program is implemented jointly with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) every year based on EROPA’s request, with the aim of helping to boost standards for local public administration mainly in the EROPA member countries. We accept as trainees those public employees from developing countries who are engaged in tasks related to local governance, holding courses for them at Local Autonomy College, and providing them with on-site training at Japanese local public agencies. FY2021 marked its 57th implementation.

Each year about 15 trainees are accepted, with the total number of people accepted since the first implementation concurrent with the formation of EROPA Local Government Center in October 1964 reaching 657 people from 66 countries by FY2021.

Training was implemented online for 7 trainees from 5 countries (1 trainees from Asian countries, 5 trainees from African countries and 1 trainee from Europe country) over a 2-week period from November 8 to 19. Besides basic subjects such as Local Administration, they took lecture and watched videos on the outline and challenges of Ama Town in Totori Prefecture, environmental problems and measures and water utility and purification in Tokyo.

In the practical training, the curriculum was arranged with the first half consisting of lectures on local administrative systems, etc., while the second half covered guidance on article writing and on-site training at local public agencies. University professors and other distinguished persons who are well versed in each field were tapped to serve as the instructors. Other than lectures and study tours, “Opening Ceremony” is held when the training starts, followed by “Inception Report Presentation Meeting” . “Recap Discussion on lectures and visits” during the middle phase of the training, “Perspective Report Presentation” at the end of the training, and “Closing Ceremony”.

Inception Reports are summarized reports that every trainee submits before beginning of training and they include both the analyses on the public administration challenges faced with their organizations and the initiatives of their countries to address such challenges. On the other hand, they submit the perspective reports as a result of the training and they compare Japan’s regional system with the systems in each trainee’s home country, providing suggestions aimed at solving their own country’s public administration challenges.



**3. Editing of Comparative Studies of Public Administration Vol. 13**

This is a collection of comparative articles in English on local public administration written by researchers mainly from EROPA member countries. In accordance with a 1981 general assembly resolution, the collection of articles is published with the aim of promoting comparative research on local public administration in the Asia-Pacific region. Since 1984, it has been compiled once every two to three years. It is distributed to EROPA member countries, EROPA group and individual members in Japan, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, related organizations, local public entities, researchers, and others.

In June of FY 2021, Vol. 13 was published with Nakamura Akira , Professor Emeritus at Meiji University; Agata Koichiro, Professor at Waseda University, Takada Hirofumi, Professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies , Koike Osamu, Professor at Yokohama National University Graduate School and Kikuchi Masao, Associate Professor at Meiji University on the editorial committee. The theme is Local Governance in the Age of technology Transformation and Global Uncertainty.

<Past Issues Published>

Vol. 1 ｢The Local Public Administration in Asian and Pacific Countries｣ (Year 1984)

Vol. 2 ｢The Training System in the Public Service｣ (Year 1986)

Vol. 3 ｢The Role of Local Government in the Development of Depopulated Rural Areas｣ (Year 1990)

Vol. 4 ｢The Role of Residents, Non-governmental Organizations and Quasi-public Agencies in Local Government｣ (Year 1992)

Vol. 5 ｢Human Resource Development in Public Administration｣ (Year 1994)

Vol. 6 ｢Reforming Government: New Concepts and Practices in Local Public Administration｣ (Year 1998)

Vol. 7 ｢Local Governance and National Development｣ (Year 2001)

Vol. 8 ｢Public Reform, Policy Change, and New Public Management: From the Asia and Pacific Perspective｣ (Year 2004)

Vol. 9 ｢Civil Society and Local Governance｣ (Year 2006)

Vol. 10 ｢Local governance under stress: Fiscal Retrenchment and Expanding Public Demands on Government｣ (Year 2009)

Vol. 11 ｢Integrated Human Capacity Building In the Age of Decentralization｣ (Year 2012)

Vol. 12 ｢Enhancing the Quality of Local Governance: Institutionalization, Capacity Building and Inter-Governmental Relations｣ (Year 2015)

Vol. 13 ｢Local Governance in the Age of technology Transformation and Global Uncertainty｣（Year 2021）

**4.　Local Autonomy College Tours**

In addition to the Local Governance Training discussed in the above Section 2, Local Autonomy College conducts half-day and full-day training sessions as needed for public employees and researchers from overseas.

The public employees and researchers accepted in FY2018 and FY2019 are 43 and 74 people respectively.

**5.　Local Governance Textbook (English)**

The Local Governance Textbook is an English teaching resource on local governance in Japan created every year for Local Governance Training, covering the topics of local public administration systems, local public employee systems, election systems, local fiscal administration systems, local public enterprise systems and local taxation systems.