

AAPA President's Report at the 2016 AAPA Annual Conference in Thailand

The 2016 AAPA Annual Conference is taking place at Burapha University in Chonburi Province, Thailand on February 19-20, 2016. This conference's theme is "Public Administration and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): New Agendas and Major Challenges" and it is jointly organized by the Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA), the Public Administration Association of Thailand (PAAT) and the Faculty of Political Science and Law of Burapha University. We appreciate the strong support from PAAT and Burapha University. We also appreciate the valuable time and tireless efforts of all members of the local organizing committee and their staff.

I have many things to report to you. Among them, I would like to share a few important things with you.

First, in order to link our public administration communities in the Asian region, I have made 10 MOUs (5 national public administration associations including India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, and Thailand; 3 national public administration institutes in Eurasia including Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Russia; 1 regional association including the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe; and 1 Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana, Kazakhstan) in the year of 2015. I hope we could link more Public Administration Communities cross-nationally in the Asian region. If you want to coordinate such a bilateral link between AAPA and your national entities for collaboration and further mutual development, please let me know. I hope we can continuously do more in the year of 2016 and beyond.

| No. | Partner Organizations | Websites | Signed Date | Country or Region |
|-----|---|--|-------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Indonesian Association for Public Administration (IAPA) | www.iapa.or.id | January 9 | Indonesia |
| 2 | Philippine Society for Public Administration (PSPA) | www.pspa.ph | January 9 | Philippines |
| 3 | Public Administration Association of Thailand (PAAT) | www.thaipaat.com | January 9 | Thailand |
| 4 | The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public | www.ranepa.ru/eng | January 16 | Russia |

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| | Administration (RANEPA) | | | |
| 5 | The Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee) | www.nispa.org | March 7 | Central and Eastern Europe |
| 6 | Indian Public Administration Association (IPAA) | www.ipaa.org.in | March 11 | India |
| 7 | Japanese Society for Public Administration (JSPA) | www.js-pa.org | May 15 | Japan |
| 8 | Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan | www.pa-academy.kz | May 21 | Kazakhstan |
| 9 | Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana (ACSH) | www.regionalhub.org | May 21 | Kazakhstan |
| 10 | Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic | | August 25 | Kyrgyz Republic |

Second, my assistant (Ry Taein Park) and I prepared the application for consultative status carefully and applied for "Special Consultative Status" with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2015. The UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) composed of 19 members (5 members from African States; 4 members from Asian States; 2 members from Eastern European States; 4 members from Latin American and Caribbean States; and 4 members from Western European and other States). This committee had its regular session at the UN headquarters in New York in January of 2016 and it reviewed our application accordingly and, in fact, raised a few questions about AAPA activities and our delegates responded to such questions well. After that, fortunately and gratefully, the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations granted "Special Consultative Status" to the AAPA on January 25, 2016. Special consultative status is granted to non-governmental organizations which have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Consultative status provides non-governmental organizations with access to not only ECOSOC, but also to its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, as well as special events organized by the President of the General Assembly. Consequently, AAPA representatives can get a valid UN pass to the UN and attend various meetings of the United Nations including ECOSOC and its many subsidiary bodies. Although this status has nothing to do with any financial assistance from the UN, it could provide valid access to not only ECOSOC but also its many subsidiary bodies.

With the UN's special consultative status, I think that this is a great opportunity for the development of the AAPA to play more active regional and international roles.

Third, we have many paper presentations. We will select the best papers presented at the conference and provide award certificates during the closing ceremony. The AAPA Award Committee (composed of the members of the Board of Directors) will select the best paper(s) presented at the annual conference and the certificate of accomplishment will be presented by the AAPA President to the authors/presenters at the annual conference. Starting from the AAPA Annual Conference in 2016, the following three kinds of the Best Paper Awards are considered: for graduate students, professional researchers and scholars, practitioners and public officials.

Fourth, AAPA members can play many roles in the development of the AAPA. We encourage creating study groups or joining them. Study groups should blend research leadership with institutionalization of some kind (public sector reform, civil service reform, governance innovation, e-government, public policy, human resource management in government, budgeting and financial administration, organizational change and development, public leadership, social welfare, local and urban administration, disaster and crisis management, etc.). With this in mind, members can make a panel proposal and identify who is interested in what. Study groups can work together on their area of interest as co-authors. Interested members should write a one page proposal with a designated study coordinator and send it to the AAPA Secretary at aapa@yonsei.ac.kr at anytime.

Fifth, from this year, we created a new plenary panel entitled "High-Level Pan-Asian Dialogue" on a demanding issue in the Asian region. Accordingly, this year's title is "High-Level Pan-Asian Dialogue on Asian Public Administration" with leading professionals from Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. We are also very pleased to have a number of representatives of public administration associations and institutes. If we could have more representatives of public administration associations and institutes at the annual meeting, we may need to create other types of platforms for their active participation in the future.

Sixth, we could have a special issue of the Asian Review of Public Administration (ARPA) out of this conference expecting a handful of good papers could meet the ARPA criteria and its writing guidelines. The AAPA supports the Asian Review of Public Administration (ISSN: 2094-408X) published by EROPA, which publishes two issues per year. I think our conference theme on "sustainable development goals" (SDGs) is very timely and relevant to a global and regional context. Accordingly, I hope the Local Organizing Committee could follow up this matter for

producing a special issue of the ARPA. Needless to say, every paper must go through a blind review process and all papers must meet its writing guidelines.

Seventh, we have a preliminary proposal from the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana, Kazakhstan to host the 2017 AAPA Annual Conference, and I hope we could decide on it collectively in Thailand based on our Kazakh colleague's proposal and/or others. The Republic of Kazakhstan is situated at the heart of Eurasia and is the world's 9th largest country. The Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana is a subsidiary organization of the UNDP in Kazakhstan and the Republic of Kazakhstan in promoting civil service reform in the region, particularly for the Central Asian region including five republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) and neighboring countries. The AAPA plans to have a mid- and longer-term plan for the annual conferences so that we welcome a new proposal for the 2018 AAPA Annual Conference and beyond.

Eighth, we have updated our website as well as the introductory brochure of the association. The AAPA website (<http://aapa.or.kr>) has been updated and expanded with more windows. We have also distributed the AAPA brochure at various events internationally, regionally, and nationally. If you send interesting member news (publications, appointment, events, and the like) to the AAPA Secretary, we can upload it in the Member News section of the AAPA website.

Ninth, the AAPA is an individual-membership-based professional non-profit organization and we need to increase our membership throughout the Asian region and beyond. Ideally speaking, the AAPA aims to have many professional members (academicians, practitioners, civil society leaders, and professionals in the related fields) from all countries in the Asian region and beyond. We also want to have a life membership. If you want to join AAPA with a life membership, please contact our AAPA Secretary at aapa@yonsei.ac.kr.

Overall, I think that the year of 2015 was good for us and hope to have another productive year in 2016. Thank you very much for your cooperation and commitment. I think we could build up a more professional AAPA together continuously. Let us, together, promote excellence and professionalism in public administration and policy in Asia and the rest of the world!

Pan Suk Kim

President, Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA)

February 19, 2016