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AAPA President's Report on July 7, 2017

Dear AAPA Members and Participants,

I hope this email finds you well and, as the President of the Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA), I would like to make a midyear report to you.

First, as you may know, the 2017 AAPA Annual Conference in Astana was very successful. The 2017 AAPA Annual Conference was held at the Astana Marriott Hotel in Astana, Kazakhstan from April 13 to 14, 2017. It was cosponsored by the Regional Hub of the Civil Service in Astana and the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Many thanks go to both agencies as well as the UNDP Office in Astana and local universities. During this conference, we had nearly 90 paper proposals and over 100 participants from approximately 20 countries including East Asia, South Asia, North and Central Asia, some from Europe, North America and others. In the past, there have been numerous chances for public administration experts to interact in South Asia and East Asia, but there were relatively few opportunities to work with experts in North and Central Asia so that it was a great opportunity for us to get acquainted with experts from that region. We hope that more experts in Russia and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) can actively join AAPA meetings in the near future.

Second, we are continuously networking with a number of major national, regional, and global partners for mutual collaboration. On June 2, 2017, Ms. Marion Barthelemy, Director of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) in the UN Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and I signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote possible collaboration for mutual benefits. Particularly, DPADM and the AAPA will cooperate in the implementation of the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN). The UNPAN's purpose is to create an electronic virtual network to exchange expertise and share experiences and lessons learned in the area of public economics, administration and finance, with a view to facilitate capacity-building through the utilization of modern technology in Asian countries. On June 22, 2017, the President of the International Public Policy Association (IPPA), Professor B. Guy Peters, and I signed an MOU for mutual collaboration during the 2017 KAPA Summer Conference held at Chonbuk National University in Jeonju, South Korea. More specifically, each side agreed to provide: (1) complimentary advertisement space for its general conference program booklet; (2) complimentary advertisement space in its website; and (3) one panel allocation at each

general conference. On April 14, 2017, the President of the Korean Association for Public Administration (KAPA), Professor Heung Suk Choi, and I signed an MOU for mutual collaboration during the 2017 AAPA Annual Conference. I am very pleased to report to you that we have made 17 MOUs with national, regional, and global partners in the Asian region and the rest of the world in the past few years.

Third, the AAPA General Assembly based on the recommendation from the Board of Directors decided to have the 2018 AAPA Annual Conference in Indonesia. The 2018 AAPA Annual Conference will be held in the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at University of Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on March 22-23, 2018. This conference will be cosponsored by several institutions in Indonesia including the University of Gadjah Mada (UGM), the Indonesian Association for Public Administration (IAPA), the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), and the Ministry of Administrative Reform. The conference theme is “Reinventing Public Administration in a Globalized World: a Non-Western Perspective.” Yogyakarta (also known as “Jogjakarta”) is a city on Java, Indonesia and it is renowned as a center of education, classical Javanese fine art and culture. The Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee is Professor Agus Pramusinto in the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at University of Gadjah Mada (Universitas Gadjah Mada: <http://www.ugm.ac.id/en>) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The Call for Papers and more detailed information will be announced by the Indonesian Local Organizing Committee and the AAPA Secretariat soon.

Fourth, the AAPA provides honorable awards to highly qualified presenter(s) annually in three different categories: one for scholars; one for graduate students, and one for practitioners. During the 2017 AAPA Annual Conference, the AAPA General Assembly based on recommendation from the Board of Directors changed the name of the Best Conference Paper Award for Scholars to the Akira Nakamura Award. The Akira Nakamura Award is given to the scholar(s) of the best paper presented at the AAPA Annual Conference. It is named in honor of the first AAPA President, Professor Akira Nakamura (Japan) who served in 2010-2011. Professor Nakamura accepted this arrangement and made a volume of financial contribution pledge for the development of the AAPA. In addition, the Board of Directors proposed to change the name of the Best Practice Award for Practitioners to the Anthony Cheung Award in honor of the second AAPA President, Dr. Anthony Cheung (Hong Kong SAR of China) who served in 2012. He had been a Secretary for Transport and Housing in the Hong Kong SAR of China from July 2012 to June 2017. This will be finally confirmed during the 2018 AAPA Annual Conference in Indonesia.

Finally, a new AAPA President will be elected during the 2018 AAPA Annual Conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In addition, the lineup of the Board of Directors is also expected to be changed accordingly. A number of leading scholars and experts are currently serving for the AAPA Board of Directors and can be joined by more in the future.

By now, major AAPA events for 2017 have been completed except the preparation for the 2018 AAPA Annual Conference. For the 2018 AAPA meeting, the Local Organizing

Committee in Indonesia will take care of most of local preparations so that I feel now very relieved of my duty and mandate. Accordingly, I would like to humbly express that it has been a great honor and pleasure for me to serve you as the President of the AAPA for the past few years. Many thanks for your support and cooperation. The AAPA has many leading scholars and experts from the Asian Region so that I am confident in saying that the new president will continuously do well after me. According to the AAPA Charter, the AAPA has a President and two Vice Presidents, in addition to a Secretary General and a Treasurer. They are selected every second year among the members of the organization at the general meeting of the Association. These officials make up the Board of Directors. They may serve for two years with a possibility of reelection, but not more than two consecutive terms.

Overall, I strongly believe that the AAPA is now well positioned as a leading regional public administration community for professional experts (academia, practitioners, and graduate students) in the Asian region. The AAPA is also well connected with other leading regional and global partners including the United Nations and many professional associations and agencies around the world. Thus, I hope that all of you could use the AAPA as a regional and international platform for the development of public administration and policy with creative new ideas as well as based on rich traditions in the Asian region and the rest of the world.

If you have any AAPA-related questions or general matters, please contact the AAPA Secretariat anytime at aapa@yonsei.ac.kr. Many thanks for your cooperation and participation and hope to see you in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on March 22-23, 2018. All the best!