Dear Members of the AAPA Board of Directors,

With you active participation and strong supports, we had a very successful annual conference in Xi’an, China on January 8-10, 2015. Thank you very much for your continuous support and cooperation. Special thanks go to Professors Jiannan Wu and Fanrong Meng at Xi’an Jiaotong University. As you may know, Professor Wu started to work at Shanghai Jiaotong University (serving two universities at the same time), which is a quite challenging situation, but he and his colleagues managed overall situation well. Many thanks to the Xi’an Jiaotong University’s faculty/staff, student volunteers, Dean, and other university leaders.

We had over 100 participants at the AAPA conference from many countries including our good friends from various Asian nations, 3 Africans (Nigeria and South Africa) and 2 Europeans (Andrew Massey from the UK and Reto Steiner from Switzerland). We had 10 concurrent sessions with two plenary sessions and approximately 60 papers were presented. We also had interesting presentations by some practitioners including the Hangzhou local government officials and others.

Members of the Board of Directors have met twice for overall business and the selection of the best paper presented in the panel. We could not choose the best paper, but were able to select 4 “leading papers.” We awarded the Leading Paper Award to each paper giver during the closing ceremony.

We discussed possible election of an additional board member from an under-represented region, which is Central Asia. Fortunately, Dr. Yessimova Sholpan, a Vice-Rector of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan agreed to join the AAPA Board of Directors. Accordingly, we hope to see more members from Central Asia in the future.

We also had a MOU-signing ceremony with the representative of three national associations including the Indonesian Association for Public Administration (IAPA), the Philippine Society for Public Administration (PSPA), and the Public Administration Association of Thailand (PAAT). Moreover, Mr. Wu Jiang and I had an initial conversation for making a possible MOU between AAPA and AGPA. Since the AGPA has more institutional stakeholders, a general process of making an important decision could take a longer time than AAPA. Nonetheless, Mr. Wu said that the AGPA meeting in Seoul in September might be a reasonable time for signing a possible MOU and I assume that he will consult with members of the AGPA steering committee accordingly.

For the 2016 AAPA annual meeting, the President Supachai of the Public Administration Association of Thailand proposed to host it so that he officially announced it during the closing ceremony. Many thanks to the Public Administration Association of Thailand. Moreover, President Supachai brought the largest delegates to the meeting.

For the 2017 AAPA annual meeting, we need to have a new proposal. I hope that you could help me in communicating with your friends and colleagues in a country that did not host the AAPA conference. Northeast Asia (China, Hong Kong/China, Japan, and Korea), Indonesia, and the Philippines hosted the AAPA conference. I hope other doable countries such as Vietnam and Malaysia or Kazakhstan, for example, could propose to host the 2017 AAPA meeting. Needless to say, we welcome such proposal from any Asian countries.

We are doing well in a given situation, but we still have a long way to go in terms of our financial capacity (we solely rely on the membership fee, but its collection is not much improving) and its secretarial operation (currently, we just rely on a graduate student’s voluntary service). In order to enhance our sustainability and further development, we need your collective wisdom and new ideas.

Once again, I thank you for your strong support and look forward to seeing you again.

Cordially yours,

Pan S. Kim

President, AAPA