

AAPA President Report

March 22, 2018

It is a great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 2018 Annual Conference of the Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA) at Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Local Organizing Committee and several cosponsoring institutions including the Social and Political Sciences Department at Universitas Gadjah Mada, the National Institute of Public Administration, the Indonesian Association for Public Administration, and the Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform for cohosting this conference. Particularly, many thanks go to Professor Agus Pramusinto who is the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee and Professor Eko Prasajo who is the President of the Indonesian Association for Public Administration.

As you may know, the mission of the AAPA is to foster excellence in public administration research, education, and practice in the Asian region, expanding and improving research collaboration and academic exchange on public administration and public policy in Asia. The AAPA is also striving to build networks with a number of major national, regional and global partners to promote mutual collaboration.

During my presidency, the AAPA has made 17 MOUs with leading institutions around the world including: the UN Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPACEE), the International Public Policy Association (IPPA), the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPAN), and many national and regional partners in Asia (East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, and North Asia).

The AAPA is now well connected and well positioned not only in Asia but also around the world. I strongly believe that the AAPA has a lot to gain by networking with many prestigious national, regional, and global institutions in Asia and the rest of the world.

These days, the primary role of public governance is to achieve the sustainable development goals, which include 17 goals covering a broad range of socioeconomic development issues including poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, environment and social justice.

Among 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG 16 is very relevant to all of us, namely: we need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,

provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. In other words, governance matters!

We are here to explore relevant and realistic points of view on public service by focusing on diverse perspectives with an Asian context and Asian characteristics. We can share not only western perspectives but also non-western perspectives; thinking about indigenized theories and good enough or best practices based on an Asian context and characteristics. In doing so, Asianized theories and Asianized wisdom will help Asian nations to build an advanced world in the upcoming era of Asia.

In recent years, the challenges we face have increased in number, complexity and pace. The most urgent challenge is that we have to be prepared for a new era, the so-called 4th industrial revolution era, which is the 4th major industrial era since the initial industrial revolution of the 18th century, impacting economies, politics, and all disciplines including public administration.

Recently, many Asian governments have achieved an unprecedented level of development. In fact, the global political landscape is changing and the whole world is noticing the rise of Asia. Asia is the Earth's largest and most populous continent. As a matter of fact, however, we still have many limitations to reduce.

Through history, we have had happy times as well as unhappy times. Now, what we need in Asia is cooperation instead of conflict. In hoping for a flourishing new Asian era, it is essential for us to strengthen the level of cooperation and collaboration for mutual understanding and mutual prosperity.

As is well known, the European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member-states and EU policies aim to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital within the internal market. Likewise, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional intergovernmental organization comprised of 10 Southeast Asian countries. As evidenced by the EU and ASEAN, I really hope that Asian countries become more connected with each other in the future, aiming for a borderless Asian community.

We are here to share knowledge and experiences for strengthening cooperation and collaboration in the Asian public administration community. I strongly believe that the AAPA is an excellent platform for promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among public administration experts and institutions in the Asian region.

This conference takes place under the theme of "Reinventing Public Administration in a Globalized World" and will generate many new and constructive ideas for Asia. For this conference, we received 143 manuscripts from over 20 countries and organized those papers in 37 sessions. I believe that quality comes from quantity and you can find a number of good papers. I hope we can have provocative and productive presentations and discussions today

and tomorrow.

I am sure that this conference will be a very good opportunity for the Asian public administration community to share knowledge and experience, thus helping us to reach a high level of cooperation and collaboration. I would like to inform you that the Board of Directors meeting decided to establish two awards: (1) the Akira Nakamura Award is given to the scholar(s) of the best paper presented at the annual conference and it is named in honor of the first AAPA President, Dr. Akira Nakamura; and (2) the Anthony Cheung Award is given to the practitioner(s) of the best case presented at the annual conference and it is named in honor of the second AAPA President, Dr. Anthony Cheung.

Once again, I would like to repeat our AAPA's motto: "Fostering excellence in public administration research, education, and practice in the Asian region". We really need to demonstrate excellence in public administration research, education, and practice. In order to do this, we need to reach out, which means that we need to produce more books and articles in English and other popular foreign languages. In doing so, I hope that more western scholars and practitioners quote our Asian literature and Asian cases more and more in the future.

Now, I would like to humbly confess that this is my last report as the AAPA President. As you can imagine, a new AAPA president will be elected during this conference. I have been very fortunate to work with many Asian scholars and leaders in the past several years. I really enjoyed working with you and I strongly believe that the AAPA will grow well and a new AAPA president and new board members will continue to lead us well.

I hope that all of you can have a very joyful time in visiting well-known historical Borobudur and Prambanan. Once again, I thank you for your participation and cooperation and wish you all the best.

Pan Suk Kim

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