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## AAPA President Report

February 6, 2017

Dear AAPA members and participants,

I wish you all the best in the year of 2017 and appreciate your strong support for the development of the Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA). On April 13-14, 2017, we will have the 2017 AAPA Annual Conference at the Astana Marriott Hotel in Astana, Kazakhstan in collaboration with the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana (<http://www.regionalhub.org>), the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (<http://www.pa-academy.kz>), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Astana. We have received over 100 individual paper presentation proposals from many countries and we expect to have another successful conference in Astana. I hope that all of you can join the conference in sharing your knowledge and experience, and networking with each other for closer further collaboration among members and participants. Based on the submitted full papers by February 20, 2017 (To be considered for the Best Paper Awards, the full paper must be submitted to the conference organizer by February 20, 2017), the AAPA Board of Directors will review those papers and select the Best Paper and Practice Awards (in three categories including scholars, graduate students, and/or practitioners). The *Asian Review of Public Administration* (ARPA: <http://journals.sfu.ca/arpa/index.php/arpa>) and the *International Journal of Civil Service Reform and Practice* (a journal published by the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana) are interested in publishing good articles based on its blind review. In addition, the Local Organizing Committee and AAPA plan to publish an edited book volume based on the collection of high-quality manuscripts presented during the conference. If you have any questions regarding our upcoming conference in Astana, please contact the local organizing committee (see more detailed information in our website). I attach a separate file about logistical matters including local accommodation and travel related matters. The Local Organizing Committee in collaboration with the AAPA Secretariat is currently finalizing the conference program and a detailed program will be uploaded to our website in the next few days.

I do have a number of things to share with you. First, I would like to report to you that the 2016 AAPA Annual Conference held at Burapha University in Thailand on February 19-20,

2016, in Collaboration with the Public Administration Association of Thailand (PAAT), was very successful. We had many participants at all levels (international, national, and local) not only from the Asian region, but also from Europe, Africa, USA, and others. Many thanks go to both institutions; the Public Administration Association of Thailand (President Supachai Yavaprabhas) and the Faculty of Political Science and Law of Burapha University. During this conference, two persons received the Best Paper Awards. They are: Professor Rosa Minhyo Cho (Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea) and Professor Sopit Cheevapanich (Mahasarakham University, Thailand).

Second, some really exciting news is that the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommended a number of non-governmental organizations including the Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA) for “Special Consultative Status” with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on January 25, 2016; and the ECOSOC sent its official letter about granting “Special Consultative Status” to AAPA on April 13, 2016. Accordingly, it is expected that the Special Consultative Status granted by the ECOSOC would help us to facilitate our work with governments, NGOs, and other institutions and organizations that are working towards sustainable development in the Asian region and around the world. The UN’s Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform currently shows our association as one of its resource organizations at its website, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=20036&menu=1561&nr=55013>.

Third, AAPA made four additional MOUs in 2016. They include: the Hong Kong Public Administration Association (HKPAA, President Peter K.W. Fong, signed on April 14, 2016); The African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM, Secretary-General George K. Scott, signed on July 14, 2016); the Myanmar Public Administration Network (MPAN, President Saw Lu Lu Htaw, signed on August 20, 2016); and the Smart Society Research Team (SSRT) of the SNU Graduate School of Public Administration (then Dean and Professor Dongwook Kim, signed on November 11, 2016). During the upcoming conference in Astana, we expect to make more MOUs with our new partners in the region. In doing so, I hope that AAPA could become a well-connected regional and international scholarly platform in the field of public administration, public policy, and governance studies.

Fourth, AAPA collaborated with the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) and the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) for the 2016 IIAS-IASIA Joint International Congress in Chengdu, China on September 23, 2016. AAPA in collaboration with IIAS and IASIA, the Policy Platform 1 on "Sustainable Development Goals: what will it take?" was held during the 2016 IIAS-IASIA Joint International Congress in Chengdu, China. A number of Chinese and international experts participated in the panel and had very fruitful presentations and discussions. In addition, I delivered the 2016 Braibant Lecture (<http://www.iias-iisa.org/major-meetings/braibant-lectures/>) entitled "The Development of Modern Public Administration in East Asia" for all conference participants on September 22, 2016 and this remark will be published in the June 2017 Issue of the *International Review of Administrative Sciences* (IRAS).

Fifth, AAPA sponsored the ICT Platform Society's 2016 Summer Conference held at Chung-Ang University in Seoul on July 1, 2016. I also attended the 20th IRSPM (International Research Society for Public Management) Annual Conference at the City University of Hong Kong and the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong in the Hong Kong SAR of China on April 13-15, 2016 and moderated a session on the Practice of Collaborative Governance in Asia. During this conference, representatives of AAPA and IRSPM discussed possible collaboration between AAPA and IRSPM. After that, the President of IRSPM invited AAPA to have our own special panel during the IRSPM meeting. AAPA agreed to do so, but we could not do it this year due to the overlapping conference schedule of both associations (IRSPM conference on April 19-21). Moreover, the AAPA Executive Secretary (Ry Taein Park) and I participated in the 66th United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference held in the City of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea from 30 May to 1 June 2016. AAPA is willing to collaborate with our potential partners at all levels (local, national, regional, and international) of the organizations for the development of public administration.

Sixth, we changed our website from <http://www.aapa.or.kr> to <http://www.aapa.asia> (or simply <http://aapa.asia>) for a "permanent usage." Whoever leads our association in the future, this new website can be our permanent website unless new technology changes our information landscape. Needless to say, we need to pay a certain amount of hosting fee annually for using this website address. Nonetheless, I believe that this new website address reflects our organizational identity much better than the previous one. In addition, you can find our association's Quick Response (QR) code at the bottom of the website.

Finally, I would like to report to you about potential host of the 2018 and/or 2019 AAPA Annual Conference. Currently, we are discussing such possibilities with a couple of institutions to widen opportunities for holding a conference in 2018 and/or 2019. They include: (1) the Department of Public Policy and Management in the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at Gadjah Mada University (Universitas Gadjah Mada: [www.ugm.ac.id](http://www.ugm.ac.id)) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia; and/or (2) a Russian institution or university in Moscow. If we get more detailed proposals from them, the AAPA Board of Directors will review their proposals and make a recommendation to the General Assembly of AAPA on April 14, 2017.

AAPA is a collective entity for all of us based on an individual membership and its mission is to foster excellence in public administration research, education, and practice in the Asian region. Let's work together for the development of public administration in all three areas (research, education, and practice). I think that the year of 2016 was good for us and hope to have another productive year in 2017. I wish you all the best and appreciate your cooperation. I look forward to seeing all of you in Astana, Kazakhstan soon.

Best regards,

*Pan Suk Kim*

President, Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA)