

SUMMARY
INTRODUCTION TO EROPA

by Chaveng Reangsuwan

The General Assembly of EROPA holds its second conference in Bangkok from the 7th to 17th October 1962. The theme of the conference is "Personnel Management and Administration." In addition, future plans will be discussed and new officers elected. The working sections of the conference will be the following.

1. Organization of the Civil Service
 - a. Organizational Structure
 - b. Duties and Responsibilities of Government Officials
2. In-service Training of Government Officials for Economic Development
3. Academic Preparation of Government Officials
 - a. Prior to and After Recruitment
 - b. Generalized versus Specialized Training.

The Philippines, Thailand and the Republic of China, respectively, are responsible for the three topics.

Slightly different from previous meetings of EROPA, this conference will offer three major speeches from guest speakers. The guest speakers and their topics are as follows.

1. Luang Sukhunnayapradith, Secretary General of the Thai Civil Service Commission: "Organization of Civil Service System"
2. Mr. Howard P. Mold, Associate Director, Management Center, St. Thomas College, St. Paul, Minnesota: "In-service Training of Government Officials for Economic Development"
3. Brigadier Sydney T. Divers, UN Regional Consultant, Public Administration Asia and the Far East: "Academic Preparation of Government Officials."

A Brief Look at EROPA

EROPA is short for the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration. It is a semi-governmental association of a regional nature. The development of EROPA dates back to

February 1958, when leading personnel in the field of public administration in the region were invited to hold a preliminary meeting in Saigon. The meeting was sponsored by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam for the purpose of organizing a permanent body to promote good government and administrative improvement. Many Asian countries indicated an interest by sending delegates or observers to the meeting. Ten countries at the Saigon meeting agreed on the principle that a permanent organization of public administration should be established in the region. Subsequently, a Regional Conference on Public Administration was convened in Manila to discuss organizational problems in detail.

The Manila Conference: Eleven delegations from Asia, including Australia and New Zealand, attended the conference which discussed the following topics.

1. The Administration of Economic and Social Planning and Programs
2. Education, Recruitment and Training for Public Service
3. Proposals for the Creation of a Permanent Institution for Public Administration in the Region.

Having agreed in principle on the creation of a permanent organization, the conference appointed a committee to study the form and operational techniques of the organization. On June 20, 1958, the closing date of the conference, the Constitution of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration was introduced to the plenary session and adopted.

The adoption of the Constitution did not mean that EROPA attained official status. Article 32 of the Constitution required the formal approval of a majority of the states presented at the Conference. At that time, only four out of eight states indicated their willingness to join. A majority of five was constitutionally needed. In order to carry on its desired objectives, the Conference appointed a provisional executive council to run the organization under the Provisional Constitution.

The Provisional Executive Council met in Hongkong on December 1959 to prepare an agenda for the First General Assembly Conference. It was agreed that the Conference would be held in Manila on December 1960, and the Government of the Philippines was invited to be the host country.

The First EROPA General Assembly: At the First General Assembly held in Manila, EROPA legally became an organized international body with the formal entrance of Japan as a state member. The theme of this conference was "Strengthening Local Administration for Economic and Social Development," sub-divided into three topics.

1. Central Services to Local Government
2. Problems of Local Self-Government
3. Government Administration of Rural Development.

The Executive Council Meeting in Tokyo: In addition to the regular meeting of the Executive Council in Tokyo, October 23 to November 5, 1961, EROPA sponsored a seminar program on public administration. "Urban Administration and Economic Development" was the seminar topic, sub-divided into three headings as follows:

1. Metropolitan Administration
2. Urban Administration and Citizens' Participation
3. Local Government and Economic Development.

At the Tokyo Meeting, the Executive Council selected a topic for the Second General Assembly and named Thailand as host country for the Second EROPA General Assembly.

Organization of EROPA

In brief, EROPA is governed by the General Assembly. The Assembly has three categories of membership: state members, group members, and individual members. Its members pay membership fees of \$1,125, \$25 and \$2.50, respectively. The General Assembly, in turn, appoints an executive council consisting of five state members and two non-state members. The General Assembly convenes every two years and the Executive Council meets annually. In order to carry on its routine activities, the General Assembly appoints a Secretary General to run the organization, including the supervision of the three technical centers, namely Research, Documentation and Diffusion Center, located in Saigon, the Training Center in India, and the Local Administration Service Center in Tokyo.
