

# WASSANITAN

## EDITORIAL

### *In Commemoration of EROPA*

This quarterly issue of the Institute of Public Administration's *Journal* commemorates the holding of the Second General Assembly of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration. It is customary on such occasions to pay honor to the guests present, to wax enthusiastic about the future, and to ignore the trials and tribulations at hand. We intend to depart somewhat from this format.

We are, of course, proud of EROPA. We are happy indeed that Thailand is a full-fledged state member. We are delighted that the General Assembly is holding its second meeting in Bangkok. And we welcome the distinguished delegates and guests that honor us with their presence. When all of this is said and done, however, there remains the critical business at hand: How can EROPA best do its job? How, in the words of the *Constitution*, can we best "promote the adoption of . . . effective . . . administrative systems and practices in order to advance . . . the economic and social development of the Region."

Our goals are clearly stated here: the advancement of regional economic and social development. Such improvements in administrative systems and practices as we can effect are, to be sure, but means to those ends. But they are vitally important means, which, if poorly conceived or poorly executed, can all but destroy the sought for goals. Quite simply put, the question for EROPA members, individually and in assembly, is: What can we do to improve public administration in the nations of the Eastern Region?

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