

19th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Written input by Asian Association for Public Administration

Agenda Item 10: Training and awareness-raising for the Sustainable Development Goals

The Asian Association for Public Administration is grateful for this opportunity to share its insights for session titled “Training and awareness-raising for the SDGs [Item 10], to be held on Monday, May 18, 2020, connected to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation and its lessons.

The Indonesian Association for Public Administration, in partnership with the Asian Association for Public Administration, Asian Group for Public Administration, and the Philippine Society for Public Administration, organized an international webinar on May 7, 2020, on the governance and public administration issues and concerns, in relation to the current pandemic. The presentations are accessible at (<http://bitly.kr/sAcKGXdG1>).

We recognize the serious implications of the global pandemic upon the implementation of SDGs in the Asian region. Participants and resource persons came from the University of Gadjah Mada, University of Indonesia, University of the Philippines, Ritsumeikan University, Tunghai University, Sungkyunkwan University, and King Prajadhikok's Institute, among others.

As discussed by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on Friday, May 15, 2020, in the session titled “Effective governance for sustainable development: putting principles into practice and reviewing outcomes,” this COVID pandemic has significant implications to the governance and public administration on the local and central levels of respective countries.

The Asian Association for Public Administration recognizes the very critical role of capacity building institutions and organization, including universities and associations of public administration in conducting training and awareness raising for the SDGs. This has become even more important given the ongoing Pandemic.

It is within this context that we respectfully provide the committee with policy recommendations arrived at during the international webinar on governance and public administration in Asia.

First, ***collaboration***. Collaboration among the countries to make global governance overcome the challenges caused the unprecedented COVID crisis is crucial. Global governance requires vertical and horizontal collaboration at multiple levels. All issues and problems are in the unexplored territory to all parties and stakeholders-concerned. Therefore, the coordinated responses on the local, central, and international levels are key.

Second, ***partnerships***. It is important to enable and maximize partnerships with business, civil society, and the community on the domestic level within the respective countries. In this context, the significance of the citizens’ awareness of their responsibility to revitalize the economy and

sustain the community should not be disregarded. Capacity building and training interventions to raise awareness on the SDGs and address COVID 19 should enable citizen engagement, harness business leaders' contribution, and encourage community leaders' action.

Third, ***local governments***. Local governments are frontliners. It is imperative to continue to develop their capacities in training and awareness-building. It is likewise important to work with local communities, learning from them but placed within the appropriate political, social and cultural contexts.

Fourth, ***leadership***. Leadership is key to the implementation of the SDGs. This is equally true in addressing the global pandemic. It is therefore important to have leaders endowed with practical wisdom, combining theory and practice. Training and awareness interventions for SDGs should therefore place special emphasis on leadership development.

Fifth, ***institutions***. Institution-building interventions should emphasize the need to *change the mindsets* to bring about behavioral changes and paradigm shifts among the stakeholders. The common drive that brings these changes is the trust in institutions in the community (SDG16).