

**“LAST CALL FOR PAPERS FOR NAPSIPAG ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AT THE BEACH CITY TRIVENDRUM, KERALA”**

**NETWORK OF ASIA PACIFIC SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE
7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2010
11-13th December, Kerala, India**

Concept Note and Call for Papers

Reaching Out to People

Achieving Millennium Development Goals through Innovative Public Service Delivery

As outlined in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a target has been set for nations to bring down global poverty, hunger, illiteracy and diseases to a significant level by the year 2015. These goals also envisage creating opportunities of growth and advancement for ordinary citizens in every nation. With less than five years remaining, it is important to take stock of innovative strategies for improving service delivery among the planet's ordinary citizens. Some serious initiatives have been undertaken by the UN Headquarters which is reflected in the call by the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on world leaders to join a stocktaking summit in New York in September 2010.

Governments all around the world have been endeavouring to contribute to achieve these important goals. Public sector initiatives are considered to form an important element of such attempts. In this regard, NAPSIPAG calls upon public administration and governance experts for a mutual sharing, learning and exchange of thoughts and programmes which have demonstrable features of promoting best practices and innovations in the public sector performance. The annual meeting in December is a platform to understand from each other's experience and help replicate innovations from one country to another and thus help reconstruct and design a cost effective and sustainable governance system aiming at alleviating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and diseases and delivering better services to all citizens including the poor and disadvantaged.

However, studies in public administration so far have advanced in a state of denial of the Weberian model of bureaucracy yet the hollowing out of the state has proved to be more of myth than a reality. State has been curtailing its own power by advancing programme implementation exercises through partnerships and collaborations with the non-state actors such as NGOs, private firms and technical support firms which have, in turn, spread like locusts over the public sphere. Despite the attempts of improving accountability, transparency and participative service delivery, corruption and speed continue to remain as major concerns mimicking the shortcomings of the Weberian bureaucratic model.

Nonetheless, the state has never been as innovative as it has been in the last two decades or so. The Asian Financial Crisis of the late 1990s and the Global Financial Crisis of the recent past have prompted the need for widespread administrative and financial sector reforms creating new regulatory bodies and introducing innovative ideas including the use of the Citizen's Charters, e-governance reforms, innovative performance appraisal systems, TQM techniques and the single window system of service delivery. In addition, more consultative approach of governance is

now considered to be one of the basic norms of public administration together with Public Interest Litigation led changes in the governance process. Yet the nature of bureaucracy in most of the Asia Pacific countries has remained less proactive in adopting changes and creating a more accountable, transparent and responsive government. The maze of outsourcing and public-private partnership has become an opaque gauze against public scrutiny despite the apparent presence of 'Right to Information' in most of the Asia Pacific countries.

The 2010 NAPSIPAG Conference theme focuses on the innovations in public service delivery systems to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Papers are invited on the above-mentioned theme. Each paper is expected to contain one or more of the following aspects;

- It could be a study of an innovation in the public sector aiming to overcome the usual bureaucratic obstructions to task performance;
- Each innovation study should have a sound theoretical analysis which can explain the reasons for such innovation being a part of partnership or a collaboration or ICT technology or an administrative mechanism with the special capacity of being visionary as well as missionary in nature;
- It may look into the innovation and any application of technology such as the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and its impact on better service delivery. In addition, it may consider to investigate the impact of the use of e-governance on the ownership pattern and the reach to ordinary people;
- The possibilities of replicating the innovative practices across the Asia Pacific region could be explored as well;
- The paper may also consider the role of innovation in engendering any substantial changes in the lives of women and children especially those belonging to the marginalized sections of society;
- It may endeavour to identify the major beneficiaries of the innovative practices (the state, MNCs, the public-private partnership, the donor agencies, ordinary people, etc) and the reasons for varying degree of impact across them;
- It also may deliberate on innovative techniques in creating better leadership within the public sector and the wider political realm of governance.

The papers are divided into 4 parallel sessions and the fifth session will be a Capacity Building Training Workshop for Health Administrators in the Asia-Pacific:

1st Session: Innovations without Technology Usage

2nd Session: Innovations in programmes for Women

3rd Session: Innovations through e-governance

4th Session: Innovations in creating better leadership

5th Session: Capacity Building Training Workshop for Health Administrators in the Asia-Pacific.

Notes for participants:

The objective of conference presentation is to contribute to the field of knowledge in cross country research and training in the Asia-Pacific governance systems. This, in turn, is expected to find innovative strategies which would speed up progress towards achieving MDGs by the year 2015.

1. Papers should follow the APA style guide.
2. The length of the paper should not exceed 3000 words
3. Abstract (not more than 300 words) and 3-5 key words need to be incorporated at the start.
4. Author's introduction should be given in not more than 50 words (only providing with the name, designation, institutional affiliation, postal and email addresses)
5. Completed papers should reach the secretariat by the **15th of October** which will help timely peer review and disbursement of funds for the selected paper presenters.
6. Complete information of boarding/lodging/travel support would be put up on the website by the 30th of October.
7. As travel funding is limited, it is advisable to explore other funding sources to attend the conference. Please note, travel funding will be available to NAPSIPAG members only.
8. CBT participants are not required to present a paper as a condition for travel funding as ADBI has agreed to fund their travel.
9. Boarding/lodging is free for all selected participants
10. NAPSIPAG Secretariat has the final word on the selection process and funding support to the participants.

We look forward to your participation!!

Dr. Sharif-As Saber
Chairperson

Prof. Amita Singh
General Secretary