

Congress

Building Capacity for Sustainable Governance

UDK 351.01(047.2)

The International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) and the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the Chinese Academy of Governance, organised the IIAS-IASIA Joint Congress held from 20 to 23 September 2016 in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China. The conference was organised by the Chinese Academy of Personnel Science, Sichuan University, and Chengdu Municipal People's Government.

The conference theme was *Building Capacity for Sustainable Governance* and its subthemes included: (1) Strategic Visions and Priorities for Sustainable Governance; (2) Building Modern Legal, Institutional, and Organisational Governance Systems; and (3) Building Public Service Human and Financial Resources Capacity. The Congress was attended by over 500 academics, practitioners, PhD students, and young researchers in public administration and management from more than 50 countries and regions around the world, as well as from government sectors, universities, and research institutions in China. Because its theme was "constructing sustainable governance capacity", this event aimed to contribute insights in order to promote the construction of a governance system compliant with the requirements of sustainable development, by strengthening academic exchange.

The congress was preceded by the statutory meetings of the IIAS and IASIA, and the conference officially opened on Tuesday, 20 September at 3:00 pm in Chengdu. Nearly a thousand people: leaders, guests, par-

ticipants, and visitors attended the opening ceremony. Welcome messages at the ceremony were delivered by *Yin Weimin*, Minister of Human Resources and Social Security of the PRC; *Geert Bouckaert*, President of IIAS; *Michel De Vries*, President of IASIA; *Rainie Wangdier*, Assistant Secretary General of the UN; and academician *Xie Heping*, President of Sichuan University (SCU). The ceremony was chaired by *Chen Li*, Deputy President of the Chinese Academy of Governance.¹ The keynote speeches at the opening ceremony were moderated by *Rolet Loretan*, Director general of IIAS; *Kong Changsheng*, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of PRC; and *Natalie Loiseau*, Dean of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in France. These were interesting speeches during which there was interaction with the participants.

After the opening ceremony, a plenary session was held, entitled *Intercontinental Administrative Forum on Leadership and Sustainable Governance and Development*. It was moderated by *Xing' an Yu*, President of the Chinese Academy of Personnel Science. During the conference the participants attended numerous panels, forums, sessions, working groups, and other meetings. Many special meetings and sub-topic seminars were held on the sidelines of the conference, including, among others, the Intercontinental Administrative Forum, the China Special Conference, the Forum of Deans of IIAS, and the Special Meeting of BRICS. The opening and closing ceremonies, plenary sessions, and many other events were translated into English, French, and Chinese, while the language spoken in the working groups was mainly English.

On Wednesday, 21 September, the IASIA Award Session took place (Awards Pierre de Celles, OP Dwivedi, and Donald C. Stone). This year the OP Dwivedi Award went to *Rolf Alter* (OECD), the D. C. Stone Award went to *Juraj Nemec* (Masaryk University, Czech Republic), and the Pierre de Celles Award went to *Adrian M. Velazquez Vazquez* (University of La Verne, USA).

Most of the work was carried out by nine working groups over three days. The working groups, their co-chairs (CCs) and project directors (PDs) were the following: WG I: Education and Training in Public Administration, CC *Hendri Kroukamp* (South Africa) & *Ludmila Gajdosova* (Slovak Republic), PD *Blue Wooldridge* (USA); WG II: Public Sector Ethics & Culture, CC *Najat Zarrouk* (Morocco) & *Dina Wafa* (Egypt), PD *Paul*

¹ For the summary of the speeches s. www.scu.edu.cn/en/news/webinfo/2016/09/1474334197116050.htm

Collins (UK); WG III: Public Sector Reform, CC *Randhir Auluck* (UK) & *Vincent Potier* (France), PD *Alketa Peci* (Brazil); WG IV: Subnational Governance and Development, CC *Christina Rodriguez* (USA) & *Amitava Basu* (India), PD *PS Reddy* (South Africa); WG V: Gender, Diversity and Equity, CC *Pregala Pillay* (South Africa), PD *Laila El-Baradei* (Egypt); WG VI: Public Sector Leadership & Governance, CC *Liesel Lues* (South Africa) & *Yingchun Sun* (China), PD *Juraj Nemeč* (Czech Republic); WG VII: Public Policy, Public Decision-making and Policy Implementation, CC *Sofiane Sahraoui* (Tunisia) & *Ram Kumar Mishra* (India), PD *Edvin Ijeoma* (South Africa); WG VIII: Public Sector Human Resources Management, CC *Christina Andrews* (Brazil) and *Chafika Agueznay* (Morocco), PD *Filiz Demirci* (Turkey); and WG IX: International Dimensions of Public Administration, CC *Bianor Cavalcanti* (Brazil) & *Frank Naert* (Belgium), PD *Argun Akdogan* (Turkey). The only representative of the Republic of Croatia was *Gordana Marčetić* from the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, who presented a paper entitled *Performance-related payment in Croatia and ex-Yugoslav countries: Reality or mission impossible?* in WG VIII.

The official part of the conference ended on Friday afternoon with the co-chairs of the working groups and the rapporteur general delivering the conclusions of the congress, and this was followed by the closing ceremony. The closing remarks were delivered by *Yizhen Zhang*, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of PRC; *Rolet Loretan*; and the newly elected presidents of IIAS and IASIA. It was during the congress in Chengdu that the presidents of IIAS and IASIA were elected to serve their three-year terms. *Bianor Cavalcanti* of the Fundação Getulio Vargas, Brazil, was elected to the IASIA Board of Management. He is succeeding *Michiel S. de Vries*, who will remain on the board as immediate past president. *Geert Bouckaert* of KU Leuven, Belgium, was re-elected IIAS president by the general assembly.

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