Plenary Panel Discussion 1
"Reforming Governance in a Changing World: Institutions, Policies, and Public Services"

Date: Thursday, 19 November 2026
Time: 13:30–15:00 hrs. (90 minutes)
Room: Orchid Ballroom 1, 2nd floor
Description:
In an era of shifting global power relations and growing geopolitical uncertainty, international developments increasingly influence how governments operate, formulate policies, and deliver public services. This panel explores how geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation, technological competition, and shifting international alliances shape governance, state capacity, and public sector reform at national and local levels. Bringing together perspectives from international relations, public administration, and public policy, the discussion will examine how governments can adapt to an increasingly uncertain global environment while addressing domestic challenges, strengthening institutional resilience, and responding effectively to citizens' needs.
Moderator: Asst. Prof. Dr. Grichawat Lowatcharin, College of Public Affairs and Policy, Khon Kaen University, Thailand
Panelists (in alphabetical order):

1) Professor Dr. Kristoffer B. Berse, Dean of National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines
2) Mr. Nguyen Tan Loi, Chairman of University Council, Eastern International University, Vietnam (Online)
3) Mr. Maxim Paratunov, Director of the Centre for Implementing a Client-Centric Approach at the Graduate School of Public Administration, Presidential Academy, Russia
   "Life Situations at the Heart of Public Service Reform: Russia's Experience"
4) Professor Woothisarn Tanchai, Former Secretary-General, King Prajadhipok's Institute, Thailand
5) Professor Dr. Jinming Yan, Director, Digital Government and National Governance Lab, Renmin University of China, China
6) Professor Dr. Gisèle Yasmeen, JW McConnell Professor of Practice, Max Bell School of Public Policy, McGill University, Canada (Online)
   "Collaborative Governance and Cross-Sector Partnerships"

Format: Each panelist will deliver brief opening remarks or a short presentation (7–10 minutes), preferably supported by a few slides. This will be followed by a moderator-led discussion exploring key themes, diverse perspectives, and implications for governance and public sector reform. The session will conclude with an audience Q&A.

Plenary Panel Discussion 2
"Global Uncertainty, Domestic Consequences: How Geopolitics Shapes Governance"

Date: Thursday, 19 November 2026
Time: 15:15–16:30 hrs. (75 minutes)
Room: Orchid Ballroom 1, 2nd floor
Description:
In an era of shifting global power relations and growing geopolitical uncertainty, international developments increasingly influence how governments operate, formulate policies, and deliver public services. This panel explores how geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation, technological competition, and shifting international alliances shape governance, state capacity, and public sector reform at national and local levels. Bringing together perspectives from international relations, public administration, and public policy, the discussion will examine how governments can adapt to an increasingly uncertain global environment while addressing domestic challenges, strengthening institutional resilience, and responding effectively to citizens' needs.
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thanachate Wisaijorn, Acting Head of Department of Politics and International Relations, Faculty of Political Science, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand
Panelists (in alphabetical order):

1) Professor Dr. Dong Huang, Director, ASEAN Research Center, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China
2) Professor Dr. Fumio Nagai, Graduate School of Law, Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan
3) Professor Dr. Bo Qin, Associate Dean, School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China, China
4) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniel J. Sargent, Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, United States
   "Interdependence: The New Urgency of an Old Idea"
5) Professor Dr. Wook Joon Sung, Seoul National University of Science & Technology, South Korea

Format: Each panelist will deliver brief opening remarks or a short presentation (7–10 minutes), preferably supported by a few slides. This will be followed by a moderator-led discussion exploring key themes, diverse perspectives, and implications for governance and public sector reform. The session will conclude with an audience Q&A.

Public Affairs Dialogue

Date: Thursday, 19 November 2026
Time: 16:45–17:45 hrs. (60 minutes)
Room: Orchid Ballroom 2, 2nd floor
Description:
An informal gathering of scholars to exchange ideas, reflect on emerging challenges, and explore the future directions of public affairs scholarship, research, and practice over coffee and tea
Moderator: Asst. Prof. Dr. Sirisak Laochankham, Dean, College of Public Affairs and Policy, Khon Kaen University, Thailand

Plenary Innovation Showcase
"From Ideas to Impact: Local Government Innovations in Action"

Date: Friday, 20 November 2026
Time: 09:00–10:15 hrs. (75 minutes)
Room: Orchid Ballroom 1, 2nd floor
Description:
Local governments are at the forefront of addressing complex societal challenges and developing innovative solutions to improve public services and citizens' quality of life. This session showcases outstanding initiatives and innovative practices from local governments, highlighting how creative ideas are translated into practical solutions that deliver meaningful public value. Featuring presentations by local government leaders and practitioners, the session will explore innovations in public service delivery, digital transformation, citizen engagement, collaborative governance, and local development. Presenters will share their experiences, achievements, implementation challenges, and lessons learned, offering practical insights and inspiration for other governments seeking to advance public sector reform and improve governance.
Moderator: Dr. Imron Sohsan, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Thailand
Panelists (in alphabetical order):

1) Professor Dr. Fumio Nagai, Graduate School of Law, Osaka Metropolitan University
2) Mr. Rakchat Naowarat, Municipal Clerk, Sila Municipality, Thailand
3) Mr. Ruangrat Rattanapokasatit, Deputy Mayor, Roi Et Municipality, Thailand
4) Mr. Saran Paonariang, Director of the Education, Religion, and Culture Promotion Division,
   Khon Kaen Municipality, Thailand
5) Mr. Suradech Taweesaengsakulthai, Senior Advisor, College of Public Affairs and Policy, Khon Kaen University, Thailand

Format: A 75-minute showcase featuring brief presentations by local government representatives, preferably supported by slides and visual materials highlighting their initiatives, implementation processes, and outcomes. Presentations will be followed by a moderated discussion and audience Q&A to encourage knowledge exchange and explore opportunities for adapting and replicating successful innovations in different contexts.

Graduate Student Publication Workshop
"From Research to Publication: Strategies for Publishing in International Academic Journals"

Date: Friday, 20 November 2026
Time: 09:00–10:30 hrs. (90 minutes)
Room: Iyara, 1st floor
Description:
Publishing in reputable academic journals is an essential milestone for graduate students and emerging scholars, yet navigating the publication process can be challenging. This interactive workshop provides practical guidance on transforming graduate research, theses, and dissertations into publishable journal articles. Led by experienced scholars and journal editors, the session will cover identifying suitable journals, developing compelling research questions and contributions, structuring academic manuscripts, navigating peer review, and responding effectively to reviewers' comments. Participants will also gain insights into common reasons for manuscript rejection, publication ethics, and strategies for improving their chances of successful publication in international academic journals. The workshop aims to equip participants with practical knowledge, greater confidence, and actionable strategies for advancing their academic publishing journey.
Moderator: Ms. Raktisud Jakrawarnachachart, College of Public Affairs and Policy, Khon Kaen University, Thailand
Speakers:

1) Professor Dr. Alfred Tat Kei Ho, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, City University of Hong Kong, China
2) Asst. Prof. Dr. Prasongchai Setthasuravich, Nagaoka University of Technology, Japan

Format: A 90-minute interactive workshop combining expert guidance, practical examples, and hands-on exercises. Participants will have opportunities to discuss their research ideas, identify potential publication outlets, and receive advice on preparing manuscripts for journal submission.

Plenary Panel Discussion 3
"Reform Begins Locally: How Local Governments Drive the Future of Governance"

Date: Friday, 20 November 2026
Time: 10:30–12:00 hrs. (90 minutes)
Room: Orchid Ballroom 1, 2nd floor
Description:
As governments face increasingly complex challenges and growing demands for responsive, effective, and inclusive public services, local governments play a critical role in advancing governance reform and improving citizens' quality of life. This panel explores how local governments can move beyond their traditional roles as policy implementers to become drivers of institutional change, policy innovation, and public sector reform. Bringing together perspectives from scholars, policymakers, and local government leaders, the discussion will examine the opportunities and challenges of decentralization, local autonomy, intergovernmental collaboration, and citizen participation, as well as innovative approaches to public service delivery. The panel will also consider how local governments can strengthen institutional capacity, foster collaborative governance, and develop locally grounded solutions to broader national and global challenges, contributing to more responsive, accountable, and resilient governance.
Moderator: Asst. Prof. Dr. Charles Ruangthamsing, College of Public Affairs and Policy, Khon Kaen University, Thailand
Panelists (in alphabetical order):

1) Professor Dr. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr., Secretary-General, Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA), Philippines (Online)
2) Dr. Inthavong Khotpanya, Head of the Political Economy and Economic Management Committee, National Academy of Politics and Public Administration, Laos
3) Professor Dr. Shunsuke Kimura, Dean, Graduate School of Global Governance, Meiji University (Online)
4) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Le Hoang Thuy To Quyen, Vice Dean University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
   "Vietnam's Two-Tier Local Government: From Administrative Restructuring to Development-Enabling Governance"

Format: Each panelist will deliver brief opening remarks or a short presentation (7–10 minutes), preferably supported by a few slides. This will be followed by a moderator-led discussion exploring key themes, diverse perspectives, and implications for governance and public sector reform. The session will conclude with an audience Q&A.

Plenary Panel Discussion 4
"Beyond the Ivory Tower: Rethinking the Role of Universities in Public Affairs"

Date: Friday, 20 November 2026
Time: 13:30–14:30 hrs. (60 minutes)
Room: Orchid Ballroom 1, 2nd floor
Description:
Universities play a vital role in shaping the future of public affairs through education, research, policy engagement, and public service. Yet, amid rapid societal transformations, evolving governance challenges, and growing expectations for academic institutions to demonstrate societal impact, their traditional roles are increasingly being reconsidered. This panel brings together distinguished academic leaders and scholars to reflect on how universities can move beyond conventional teaching and research to become more active contributors to governance reform, policy innovation, public leadership development, and the creation of public value. The discussion will explore the changing responsibilities of universities, opportunities for collaboration with governments and communities, and the challenges of translating academic knowledge into meaningful societal impact.
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Narong Kiettikunwong, College of Public Affairs and Policy, Khon Kaen University, Thailand
Panelists (in alphabetical order):

1) Dr. Warut Ingkhathawornwong, Deputy Dean for Administration and Organization Development, Faculty of Political Science, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand
2) Assistant Professor Dr. Thuanthong Krutchon, Dean, Management for Development College, Thaksin University, Thailand
3) Mrs. Le Thi Thanh Tuyen, Faculty of Economics, Academy of Public Administration and Governance, Vietnam
4) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Luong Thanh Cuong, Vice President, Academy of Public Administration and Governance, Vietnam
5) Professor Dr. Riccardo Pelizzo, Dean, Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan
6) Mr. Suradech Taweesaengsakulthai, College of Public Affairs and Policy, Khon Kaen University, Thailand

Format: A 60-minute interactive, moderator-led panel discussion without formal presentations or slides. The moderator will guide an open exchange of ideas, experiences, and diverse perspectives among the panelists, followed by an audience Q&A.

Plenary Panel Discussion 5
"Where Do We Go from Here? Charting the Future of Public Affairs"

Date: Friday, 20 November 2026
Time: 14:45–15:30 hrs. (45 minutes)
Room: Orchid Ballroom 1, 2nd floor
Description:
As the world confronts profound political, economic, technological, and societal transformations, the field of public affairs faces important questions about its identity, relevance, and future direction. Bringing together internationally distinguished scholars, this closing plenary offers an open and thought-provoking dialogue on the future of public affairs as both an academic field and a domain of professional practice. The discussion will explore emerging challenges, evolving intellectual perspectives, new directions in research and education, and the role of public affairs scholarship in addressing the complex problems of contemporary governance. Moving beyond the themes explored throughout ICPA2026, the session invites reflection on where the field stands today, where it should be heading, and how scholars and practitioners can collectively advance its future.
Moderator: Asst. Prof. Dr. Sirisak Laochankham, Dean, College of Public Affairs and Policy, Khon Kaen University, Thailand
Panelists (in alphabetical order):

1) Professor Dr. Alfred Tat Kei Ho, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, City University of Hong Kong, China
2) Professor Dr. Stephen P. Osborne, Chair of International Public Management and Head of Strategy Group, Business School, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
3) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniel J. Sargent, Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, United States
4) Ms. Patsalin Reephrom Milner, Programme Analyst – Gender-Based Violence, UNFPA, Thailand

Format: An interactive, moderator-led scholarly conversation without formal presentations or slides. The moderator will facilitate an open exchange of ideas, critical reflections, and diverse perspectives among the discussants. The session will include opportunities for audience questions and participation.