

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of COLA



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**THE SECOND
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
PUBLIC
AFFAIRS**

Public Service Reform in the Age of Global Power Shifts

November 19-20, 2026
The Heritage Grand Khon Kaen Hotel and
Convention, Thailand



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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www.colaconferences.com

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS
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KEY EVENTS AT ICPA2026

ICPA2026 will feature a rich mix of academic and practice-oriented activities designed to promote knowledge exchange and meaningful dialogue. Key events include **keynote speeches** by distinguished international scholars and practitioners, **roundtable discussions** on pressing public affairs challenges, **showcases of outstanding international, national, and local development initiatives**, and **presentations of cutting-edge research in public administration, public policy, and public affairs**. Together, these events aim to connect theory with practice and to foster informed discussion on public service reform in a changing global context.

CONFERENCE PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Second International Conference on Public Affairs (ICPA2026) is convened under the theme **“Public Service Reform in the Age of Global Power Shifts”** to provide an international forum for scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and emerging researchers to critically examine how transformations in the global order are reshaping public governance and public service systems.

In an era marked by geopolitical realignments, economic uncertainty, technological disruption, climate change, and shifting centers of global power, public sector institutions across all levels of government face growing pressure to reform. ICPA2026 aims to foster rigorous academic exchange and policy-relevant dialogue on how public services can adapt, innovate, and remain resilient, inclusive, and accountable amid these complex global dynamics.

The scope of the conference encompasses theoretical, empirical, and practice-oriented contributions that address public service reform from local, national, regional, and global perspectives. The conference welcomes research that explores governance reforms, institutional change, policy implementation, public management innovation, and cross-sector collaboration, as well as the implications of global power shifts for public administration in both developed and developing contexts.

ICPA2026 seeks to bridge global and regional perspectives by highlighting comparative experiences, lessons learned, and future pathways for public service reform. By bringing together diverse voices and disciplines, the conference aims to advance scholarly knowledge, inform policy debates, and contribute to the development of more adaptive and forward-looking public affairs in a rapidly changing world.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



We are delighted to welcome **Professor Stephen P. Osborne, Chair of International Public Management and Head of the Strategy Group, and Director of the Centre for Service Excellence at the University of Edinburgh Business School**, as the keynote speaker for ICPA2026.

Professor Osborne is internationally recognized for his pioneering contributions to public management and public service research, and his work has profoundly shaped contemporary thinking on public service reform, governance, and innovation.

TRACKS

ICPA2026 is organized into a set of thematic presentation tracks that reflect both the core domains of public administration, public policy, and public affairs, and the overarching theme of **public service reform in the context of global power shifts**.

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These tracks are designed to accommodate diverse theoretical, empirical, and practice-oriented contributions, and to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue across levels of governance and policy sectors. Together, they provide a structured yet inclusive framework for exploring how public institutions, policies, and services are being reshaped in a rapidly changing global environment.

Track 1: Public Service Reform and Administrative Transformation

This track focuses on reforms in public administration and public service delivery in response to global power shifts, crises, and societal change. Topics may include civil service reform, public sector modernization, performance management, regulatory reform, and organizational change in government.

Track 2: Governance, Institutions, and Global Power Shifts

This track examines how changes in the global political and economic order influence governance arrangements and institutional design. Contributions may address institutional change, state capacity, legitimacy, multilevel governance, geopolitics, and the role of international and regional institutions in shaping public affairs.

Track 3: Public Policy Analysis, Design, and Implementation

This track welcomes studies on policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation under conditions of uncertainty and complexity. Topics may include policy reform, policy capacity, implementation gaps, street-level bureaucracy, evidence-based policymaking, and comparative public policy.

Track 4: Digital Government, AI, and Innovation in the Public Sector

This track explores how digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies are reshaping public administration and service delivery. Areas of interest include digital governance, GovTech, AI in public services, data-driven policymaking, cybersecurity, and ethical challenges of technology adoption.

Track 5: Collaborative Governance and Cross-Sector Partnerships

This track focuses on governance beyond the state, emphasizing collaboration among government, private sector, civil society, and communities. Topics may include network governance, public-private partnerships, co-production, social innovation, and managing inter-organizational collaboration in complex policy environments.

Track 6: Public Finance, Public Economics, and Fiscal Governance

This track addresses fiscal challenges and financial reforms in public administration. Contributions may examine public budgeting, taxation, fiscal decentralization, public expenditure management, financial sustainability, and the fiscal impacts of global economic shifts.

Track 7: Local Governance, Decentralization, and Urban-Regional Affairs

This track highlights public affairs at the subnational level. Topics may include decentralization, local government reform, metropolitan governance, urban policy, regional development, and the role of cities and local authorities in a changing global order.

Track 8: Ethics, Accountability, and Public Sector Leadership

This track examines ethical challenges, accountability mechanisms, and leadership in public service. Areas of interest include public sector ethics, integrity systems, transparency, anti-corruption, leadership development, and public service motivation in times of political and social change.

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Track 9: Crisis Governance, Resilience, and Sustainability

This track focuses on how governments respond to global and transboundary crises. Topics may include crisis management, disaster governance, climate change policy, sustainability, resilience-building, and long-term public service adaptation to global risks.

Track 10: Comparative and International Public Administration

This track encourages comparative, cross-national, and international perspectives on public administration and public policy. Contributions may explore lessons learned across countries, policy transfer, administrative traditions, and comparative reform trajectories in different political and institutional contexts.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

November 14-18, 2026 – Pre-Conference Workshops

- Graduate Student Workshops (separate registration required)
- Young Scholar Workshops (separate registration required)

November 18, 2024 – Pre-Conference Events

- Registration
- City and museum tour (by invitation only)
- Organizing committee meeting

November 19, 2026 – Main Conference Events

- Registration
- Opening Plenary Session
 - Opening ceremony
 - Keynote speech
 - Roundtable discussion #1
 - Roundtable discussion #2
- Lunch
- Parallel panel sessions
 - Panel session for academics and researchers
 - Panel session for students
 - Workshop session for practitioners
- Exhibition, showcase, and poster presentations
- Networking session
- Reception dinner

November 20, 2026 – Main Conference Events

- Registration
- Parallel panel sessions
 - Panel session for academics and researchers
 - Panel session for students
 - Workshop session for practitioners
- Exhibition, showcase, and poster presentations
- Lunch
- Parallel panel sessions
 - Panel session for practitioners
 - Panel session for academics and researchers
 - Panel session for students
- Closing plenary session
 - Roundtable discussion #3
 - Closing keynote speech
 - Closing ceremony
- Organizing committee meeting

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CONFERENCE TIMELINE

- Call for Papers and Proposals:
 - February 6, 2026: Announcement of Call for Papers and Proposals
- Submission Deadlines
 - August 31, 2026: Deadline for Submission of Abstracts and Proposals
 - September 11, 2026: Notification of Acceptance/Rejection of Abstracts and Proposals
- Full Paper Submission
 - October 20, 2026: Deadline for Submission of Full Papers
- Registration
 - July 31, 2026: Early Bird Registration Deadline
 - October 20, 2026: Regular Registration Deadline
 - December 20, 2026: Late and On-Site Registration Deadline
- Conference Preparation
 - November 1, 2026: Final Program Announcement
 - November 5, 2026: Distribution of Conference Materials to Participants
- Conference Dates
 - November 19-20, 2026: Conference Days

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

ICPA2026 welcomes individual papers and fully-organized panels. The conference accepts submissions in both **English and Thai**. Papers submitted in Thai must include an extended abstract in English.

- **Individual papers** should be 3,000-4,000 words and formatted according to our manuscript template (see the Conference Website). Use APA Manual, 7th Edition for citations.
- **Fully-organized panels** can include up to five papers and/or presentations, a moderator if presenting, and an optional discussant without a formal presentation. Panels will be evenly distributed across time slots based on paper proposals and panel organizer suggestions.
- All papers must not have been previously published in any academic or professional journal before the conference.
- All presenters are required to submit a 250-word abstract, not including the title, authors, affiliations, and keywords (using our provided abstract template). The submission deadline is set for August 31, 2026. Following the review process, the organizing committee will inform you of their decision by September 10, 2026. If your abstract is accepted, you must submit the complete paper by October 20, 2026.

CONFERENCE FEE

The conference registration fee depends on when you register and your role at the conference (participant or presenter). Three registration periods are available: Early-bird, Regular, and Late/Walk-in. Registering early offers a lower fee.

Registration Type (Deadline)	Type of Presenters and Participants	
	Participant	Oral Presenter*
Early-bird (ends July 31, 2026)	THB 3,000	THB 4,500
Regular (August 1-October 20, 2026)	THB 3,500	THB 5,500
Late and walk-in (October 21 – November 20, 2026)	THB 5,500	-

Note: All fees are quoted in Thai Baht (THB).

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The conference fee covers access to all sessions, a certificate of attendance, conference materials (conference bag, name badge, and program book), the reception dinner on 19 November, as well as two lunches and refreshments on 19–20 November. All fees are quoted in Thai Baht (THB). Please refer to the Conference Website for payment methods.

* To ensure their presentation is part of the conference schedule, **at least one author must register as a presenter by October 31, 2026**. Authors who are not presenting should register as participants.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The College of Local Administration at Khon Kaen University is honored to host ICPA2026. We have four levels of sponsorship available: platinum, gold, silver, and bronze. The following details outline the fees and benefits for each tier:

- **Platinum co-sponsor**
 - Fee: THB 175,000
 - Lodging: five (5) double rooms for two (2) nights
 - Registration fee waivers: ten (10) participants/participants
 - The Prime Partner sponsor's signage will be more prominent than other co-sponsors.
 - Name and logo of the organization on the homepage of the conference website.
 - Name and logo of the organization on the front or back cover of the abstract book/proceedings.
- **Gold sponsor**
 - Fee: THB 105,000
 - Lodging: three (3) double rooms for two (2) nights
 - Registration fee waivers: six (6) presenters/participants
 - Name and logo of the organization on the homepage of the conference website.
 - Name and logo of the organization on the front or back cover of the abstract book/proceedings.
- **Silver sponsor**
 - Fee: THB 70,000
 - Lodging: two (2) double rooms for two (2) nights
 - Registration fee waivers: four (4) presenters/participants
 - Name and logo of the organization on the homepage of the conference website.
 - Name and logo of the organization on the front or back cover of the abstract book/proceedings.
- **Bronze sponsor**
 - Fee: THB 35,000
 - Registration fee waivers: two (2) presenters/participants
 - Name and logo of the organization on the homepage of the conference website.
 - Name and logo of the organization on the front or back cover of the abstract book/proceedings.
- **Regular sponsor**
 - Fee: THB 20,000
 - Registration fee waivers: one (1) presenter/participant
 - Name and logo of the organization on the homepage of the conference website.
 - Name and logo of the organization on the front or back cover of the abstract book/proceedings.

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LOGISTICS

- **Venue.** The conference will take place at Pullman Khon Kaen Raja Orchid Hotel, Mueang Khon Kaen District, Khon Kaen Province, Thailand, on November 19-20, 2026.
- **Travel to Khon Kaen.** Khon Kaen is one of Thailand's largest cities. Travel to Khon Kaen is convenient with several non-stop flights from major locations.
 - From Bangkok:
 - Thai Airways operates eight daily flights from Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK) to Khon Kaen (KKC).
 - Thai AirAsia provides ten daily flights from Don Mueang International Airport (DMK), and four daily flights from Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK) .
 - Thai Lion Air has four daily flights from Don Mueang.
 - Thai Vietjet has four daily flights from Don Mueang.
 - From Chiang Mai:
 - Thai AirAsia flies daily from Chiang Mai International Airport (CNX) to Khon Kaen.
 - From China
 - Travel by high-speed train from Kunming, China, to Vientiane, Laos. From Vientiane, you can take a bus or a train to Khon Kaen. This scenic route provides an alternative and exciting way to reach the conference while experiencing regional connectivity through modern infrastructure.
- **Accommodation.** Khon Kaen offers several hotel options. These are our top recommendations.
 - **The Heritage Grand Khon Kaen Hotel and Convention:** Located in Khon Kaen's city business district, the Heritage Grand Khon Kaen Hotel and Convention offers free internet access, an outdoor swimming pool and day spa. Featuring a blend of European and Thai design, rooms at the Heritage Grand Khon Kaen Hotel and Convention offer views of the city or Kaen Nakorn Lake. The Heritage Grand Khon Kaen Hotel and Convention offers 10 food and beverage options ranging from an Italian restaurant to a karaoke lounge.
 - Address: 9/9 Prachasamran Road, Nai Mueang, Mueang, Khon Kaen 40000 Thailand
 - Tel: +66 (0) 43 913 333
 - Website: <https://www.heritagegrandkhonkaen.com/>
 - Email: info@heritagekhonkaen.com
 - **Ad Lib Hotel Khon Kaen.** Ad Lib Hotel Khon Kaen is located in Khon Kaen, just 1 km away from Khon Kaen Train Station. The hotel provides accommodations that include a restaurant, free private parking, an outdoor pool, and a bar. The property also offers a 24-hour front desk service and room service, along with complimentary WiFi throughout the premises. Guests can enjoy a shared lounge, concierge services, and luggage storage during their stay.
 - Address: Khon Kaen Innovation Centre, 999 Srichan Road, Nai Mueang, Mueang, Khon Kaen 4000 Thailand
 - Tel: +66 (0) 43 100 555
 - Website: <https://www.adlibhotels.co/khon-kaen/>
 - Email: khonkaen@adlibhotels.co

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FURTHER INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

For the latest information, please refer to the Conference Website at www.colaconferences.com or reach out via:

- COLA KKU Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/cola.kku>
- Line Official Account: @colakku
- Contact persons:
 - Ms. Nattaya Srihanarm, email: nasriha@kku.ac.th
 - Ms. Kewaree Sangsawang, email: kewasa@kku.ac.th