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## CALL FOR PAPERS

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*Improving Administrative Sciences Worldwide*

### 2017 IASIA-MENAPAR Joint Conference

Ramallah, Palestine, 3-7 July 2017

The International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) and the Middle East & North Africa Public Administration Research network (MENAPAR) in close collaboration with the General Personnel Council (GPC), are organizing the 2017 IASIA-MENAPAR Joint Conference to be held from 3-7 July 2017 in Ramallah, Palestine.

The conference will bring together practitioners, academics, PhD students and young researchers in public administration and management, as well as contributors from any other disciplines who will exchange on the following main theme:

#### Public Administration's role in building and consolidating post-conflict states

We warmly invite you to submit your contributions on the sub-themes defined hereafter by the nine working groups of IASIA:

Call for papers of the nine IASIA working groups:

- I: Education and Training in Public Administration
- II: Public Sector Reform
- III: Subnational Governance and Development
- IV: Gender, Diversity and Equity
- V: Public Sector Leadership and Governance
- VI: Public Policy, Public Decision-making and Policy Implementation
- VII: Public Sector Human Resources Management
- VIII: International Dimensions of the Public Administration
- X: Public administration's role in building and consolidating post-conflict states

#### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACTS:

If you submit an abstract for a paper to be presented at the conference, you should only point out what the paper is about; how the paper is related to previous research on the matter; the method you use to answer the main question underlying the paper, what the contents of your paper contribute to the working group subject, and why the contents of your paper are relevant. It is preferred if you would restrict yourself to completing the following sentences:

- This paper [describes/explores/explains/tests/argues] .....
- Existing [research/theory] pointed to....
- Based on [a case-study/interviews with.../document analysis/survey/reassessment of ...] this paper tries to answer the following question .....
- The outcomes point to....
- This is relevant because ....

The abstract should not exceed 400 words.

Authors should keep in mind that "best complete papers" submitted are considered for publication in the e-journal "Developments in Administration" and for the prestigious Pierre De Celles Award.

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### **An introduction to this year's theme**

Although governments and public administrations all over the world have different and varying competencies, their actions affect all of us in all spheres of life through inter alia, public service delivery, administrative regulations, rule of law.

Recent history has been marked by numerous conflicts around the world. Moreover, it appears that a large number of post-conflict cases represent a great possibility to relapse into conflict. Weak and failed states, including most of the post-conflict states, are considered to be a threat to international security and therefore their reconstruction needs to be prioritized. In most of these countries, public institutions are totally non-existent or seriously damaged. Therefore, there is a need to reform or totally rebuild them, often from scratch. In addition, conflict has negative consequences on social and economic welfare, public health care, and is one of the main reasons for the high number of refugees and illegal immigration. Hence, the rebuilding of public administration is a crucial part of the general process of rebuilding and consolidating post-conflict states.

The notion of international state-building includes international organizations and donors. Together with academic research, they have played an important role in solving post-conflict challenges and developing related theories. Depending on the use of theory and the context of the country, state-building has been driven in a different manner from one country to another, but so far the results have not been very convincing. With the 9/11 attacks, security issues have been prioritized and therefore the rule of law has gained serious attention in the agenda of many scholars and political leaders. Other scholars suggest that the socio-economic aspects should be addressed in priority as failure in this area leads to violence and regeneration of conflict.

In practice, it appears that rebuilding a post-conflict state requires significant financial and human means and the process is often strongly connected to political intentions and international relations' issues. Putting aside the political questions, scholars and practitioners must focus on the tasks that public administration must fulfill in such a situation. It is absolutely crucial to build public institutions that are able to deliver public services such as education, healthcare, water and electricity supply, public safety, services that impact on people's lives.

A dilemma exists however, on the "road map" to adopt in terms of post - conflict scenarios, more specifically in terms of rebuilding a state. There are several questions that need to be answered with regard to the particular role public administrations should play in such a process. How do we rebuild a post-conflict state when public institutions do not exist or are severely damaged? Which institutions should have priority in this rebuilding process and why? In a situation where "one-size-fits-all" models are rejected, how do we use best practices and avoid known mistakes? How can international donors and organizations contribute to this process? How can education and training in public administration contribute in strengthening the state?

This annual IASIA conference invites papers focusing on cutting edge theoretical and empirical research on these questions. During the conference, these subjects will be debated during key-note speeches and in international panels, as well as within a working group specifically addressing this theme. In the permanent working groups, the subject will be related to Education and Training, Public Sector Ethics & Culture, Public Sector Reform, Subnational Governance and Development, Gender, Diversity and Equity, Public Sector Leadership and Governance, Public Policies, Public Decision-making, and Policy Implementation, Public Sector Human Resources Management, and International Dimensions of the Public Administration.

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### Working Group I:

#### Education and Training Program: Aligning Missions and Quality

##### Co-Chairs:

- **Hendri KROUKAMP**, (University of the Free State, SOUTH AFRICA)  
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- **Ludmila GAJDOSOVA**, (NISPAcee, SLOVAK REPUBLIC)  
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##### Project Director:

- **Blue WOOLDRIDGE**, (Virginia Commonwealth University, UNITED STATES)  
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Working Group I Education and Training Programme: aligning missions and quality, is considered by many to be the “heart” of the Annual IASIA Conference. Papers presented as part of this Working Group, focusing on the enhancement of instruction and capacity building, the improvement of research in pedagogy, and the development of high performing Schools and Institutes of Administration (SIAs), are also relevant to many of the other Working Groups.

We are aware that, in addition to the challenges of creating in our students/participants the competencies of re-build/building administrative policies/procedures/administrative structures that are economic, efficient, effective, ethical and equitable, the faculty and staff of Schools and Institutes of Administration must ensure that all residents of the post-conflict state perceive that the government’s policy outcomes are equitable, procedurally just, and that the residents are treated with respect and their dignity is maintained.

This theme offers many opportunities for those wanting to present their thoughts at the sessions of Working Group I. This Working Group is encouraging papers that response to the following research questions:

Competencies required by our student/participants: What competencies are required by our students/participants to meet the challenges of designing, monitoring and evaluating the administrative structures and policy and procedures to ensure the delivery of economical-efficient -effective-ethical and equitable public goods and services; Any other competencies required for building and consolidating post-conflict states; What new skills and theories are needed by our students/participants to achieve the required competencies.

Instructional methods: What are the “best” methods for developing these competencies? For what types of students?

Evaluation: How do we evaluate whether our students gain these competencies?

Distributional methods: What are the “best” ways of distributing this instructions (ie: lectures, visuals, internet, learning packages, online education etc) for achieving these competencies?

Research: What research needs to be carried out by staff and students on the requisites, consequences, and practices of to meet the challenges posed to achieve the state of “Good Governance” in post-conflict states.

What contributions can the International Association of Schools and Institutions of Administration (IASIA) make in the development of high performing Schools and Institutes of Administration in post-conflict states? How can IASIA and its members design and manage SIAs that are responsive to the challenges of this condition?

Other topics relevant to the designing and managing SIAs and the enhancement of Instructions in Schools and Institutes of Administrations.

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### Working Group III: Public Sector Reform

#### Co-chairs:

- **Randhir AULUCK** (Coventry University, United Kingdom)  
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#### Project director:

- **Alketa PEÇI** (FGV, Brazil)  
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Post-conflict states are marked by broken, stagnating and/or seriously damaged public institutions demanding comprehensive reforms aiming to rebuild public administration and its capacity to enforce the rule of law, democracy and human rights, issue administrative regulations, and deliver key public services. The role of a regenerated and revitalized public sector is critical in solving post-conflict challenges, recovering a fragile network of state-society relationships and rebuilding structures, mechanisms and pathways for public service delivery.

Such challenges demand continuous change and adoption of different types of reforms that focus not only on recovering the administrative capacity of the public sector (rebuilding and rearranging methods of management, and measures that improve human, financial or organizational resources), but, above all, more comprehensive structural reforms aiming to emulate, build or rearrange existing power relations between a complex and sometimes inexistent social network of international donors, bureaucrats, politicians, citizens or market interests.

The call for papers of the Public Sector Reform working groups aims to contribute to the main conference theme, welcoming contributions that focus on public sector reforms from the perspective of rebuilding public institutions as well as reviving and consolidating the all too often fragile socio-political and economic network of relations public administration has to develop with stakeholders and third parties (international donor, nonprofit or market institutions). Papers that discuss intraorganizational and interorganizational aspects of reforms aiming to build sustainable public institutions, discussing how to build institutional and organizational capacity to ensure social stability, citizen and democratic engagement, and justice and peaceful social relations are welcomed. We encourage topics such as: the management of public sector organizations, public sector performance, the role of international donors in promoting the reforms, transparency and accountability, social equity concern, political participation, corruption and integrity in public sector, networks and partnerships with nonprofits and private sectors, civil society engagement, transitional democracy and justice, among many others. We especially welcome strong conceptual and methodological contributions, along with best practices and case studies that discuss best practices. Academics and practitioners are invited to participate in conference discussions, paper presentations, and experience sharing.

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### Working Group IV: Subnational Governance and Development

#### Co-chairs:

- **Christina RODRIGUEZ – ACOSTA** (Florida International University, United States)  
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- **Amitava BASU** (Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, India)  
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#### Project Director:

- **P.S. REDDY** (University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa)  
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Development and implementation of holistic and inclusive National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) is challenging in countries emerging from conflict, which have serious capacity gaps and constraints. Strong local governments and inclusive local governance are increasingly seen as essential building blocks in public management functions in post-conflict environment. Local governments have a key role to play in integrating the social, economic and environmental dimension, prioritizing social inclusion, women's empowerment, ensuring peace and stability, and responding to the socio-economic needs of the affected population in the immediate post -conflict humanitarian, early recovery phase and as part of the consolidation of peace and state-building.

Working Group IV invites papers on the following sub-themes in the broader context of the general conference theme:

**Decentralization:** A key policy for stability – adoption of the principles of subsidiarity within a comprehensive legal framework for decentralization to build a structural arrangement for shared exercise of power and facilitating involvement of the local communities in policy decisions on their development.

**Strengthening Local Government & Participatory Governance** - Effective reconstruction requires quick creation of a strong state in a fashion that strengthens the capability of the governing authority, provides security, eliminates violent conflict, protects human rights, generates economic opportunities, extends basic services, responds effectively to emergencies, and combat poverty and inequality and achieve local economic development, and incorporate the vulnerable, marginalized and disenfranchised groups into the development planning process.

**Building Trust in Local Government** - Sustaining the peace depends on restoring governance and building trust in government among groups who had been dissatisfied with or excluded from participation in political and administrative processes and doing so in a way that reflects the values and interests of all groupings, thereby operating on a functional scale for achieving sustainable development. The SDGs, its relations to the Agenda 2030 and the role that local and regional governments are expected to play in their implementation has to be factored in.

**Local Economic Development (LED)** is a challenge for many local and regional governments globally where legal frameworks are weak, and/or institutional capacity is not present. Consequently, informality prevails and the difficulties for local and regional governments to implement LED policies and strategies is a challenge.

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Papers addressing the above-mentioned issues, having a clear conceptual and theoretical basis and meeting methodological standards are invited. The papers can be based upon empirical research, and/or case studies. For single site case studies, every effort should be made to identify the relevance of the findings to other situations thereby introducing a comparative dimension.

### Working Group V: Gender, Diversity and Equity

#### Chair:

- **Pregala PILLAY** (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa)  
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Women face severe adversities during times of conflict and their lives are ravaged by war and other long term disasters. The spotlight must be kept on the realities that women and often children face during these times. In this regard, recent commentaries describe some of the daily struggles and horrors that they are subjected to inter alia, physical injury, psychological trauma, decreased sanitation and hygiene, deterioration of health delivery, intimidation, mass killings, starvation, torture, sexual and violent assault. Human rights abuses are rampant and women are subject to the worst forms of discrimination, deprivation and destruction. This working group invites papers on the issues confronting women in post conflict states and recommendations for the protection of women in areas affected by such conflict. As it is evident, conflict deepens divisions between groups and society and Public Administration ceases to exist. This situation leads to turmoil, disorder and eventually all the wheels of government institutions start to fall off. Post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding must take into account mechanisms and instruments to focus on women's issues for inclusion and integration of a broader Public Administration system. Only if this takes place, a sense of nation building and a sense of community will rise. A system for post conflict society must be tailored to address challenges impacting on political culture, demographic structure and geographical distribution of women. These efforts should ensure collaboration and sharing of lessons learned among key improvements in these settings.

### Working Group VI: Public Sector Leadership and Governance

#### Co-chairs:

- **Liesel LUES** (University of the Free State, South Africa)  
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- **Yingchun SUN** (Chinese Academy of Governance, China)  
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#### Project Director:

- **Juraj NEMEC** (Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic)  
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Working Group VI core thematic area is leadership and governance. The group also maintains its interest in public management and its subfields. With particular interest in comparative analyses and those employing methodological diversity, we invite papers and proposals that focus upon:

**Leadership:** The complexity of the current political, economic and cultural changes along with advancement in technology, requires a significant amount of planning and bold leadership within the public sector. It appears as if younger generations pressurize public sector organizations to move away from utilizing traditional leadership approaches towards

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innovative, and often carefree approaches in trying to do 'more with less'. These realities raise the questions: what type of leader do we need in the 21st century; what are the alternatives to the current leadership approaches; what are the challenges that public sector women leaders still face; and is leadership only confined to political privileged or should the society take a stronger leadership position towards?

**Governance:** Governance has implications that extend beyond the institutional arrangements that are the focus of policy and program design. When governments and governmental agencies work to solve challenging social problems or provide essential public services, how "governance" determines the outcomes and final success? How will success or failure be evaluated? How will actors and agencies be held accountable for their performance? What is the specific role of governance in building and consolidating post-conflict states?

**Public Management:** Even as governmental ministries, departments, agencies and personnel are called to adapt and perform in more and more complex environment, their core functions such as managing people, financial resources, and information continue to evolve and develop. How do these administrative systems and processes contribute to effective governance? Is there an emerging consensus about best practices for public management areas that transcends local or specific contexts? Should public servants not be accredited to a professional body and code of conduct?

The WG coordinators will accept only abstract with clearly indicated research question/s, defined methodology and indicated main outputs. Final papers shall include clear and strong contributive section, providing value added to the discipline.

### **Working Group VII:** **Public Policy, Public Decision-making, and Policy Implementation**

#### **Co-chairs:**

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Email: s.sahraoui@bipa.gov.bh
- **Ram Kumar MISHRA** (Institute of Public Enterprise India)  
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- **Edwin IJEOMA** (University of Fort Hare, South Africa)  
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World regions continue to face challenges on several fronts as a result of the continued political and social turmoil triggered by the Arab Spring and other changes of a similar nature, and exacerbated by the lack of much needed serious and long-due political, social, and economic reforms.

Arab countries like Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya have become engulfed in prolonged and destructive internal conflicts. Apart from losses in life, vast destruction in infrastructure, and displacement of citizens, the state apparatus in these countries have become largely dysfunctional, face legitimacy issues on the local and international arenas. Most importantly, the governments of these countries are incapable of adequately providing basic services and reaching out to all their citizens.

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In stable countries like Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, and Morocco, apart from the economic challenges these countries face, reforming the ailing governance structures and embracing democratic reforms remains a key challenge. Tunisia stands as an exception with its embracement of democratic reforms, yet the country still faces major economic and social challenges in its path to reignite the economy and solidify the gains of its new democracy. In the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the fall in oil prices have created new realities for the governments. GCC governments are presently performing under austerity measures, and economic reform agendas aimed at reducing their reliance on oil revenues will likely take a long time to shift their economies.

In the interest of contextual relevance, countries will be divided into two categories: A) The category of fragile and conflict-ridden countries where national governments are no longer considered the main actors in delivering public services; and there are other influential non-state actors who contribute in delivering such services, and B) The category of stable countries where national governments aspire to reform their governance and public administration apparatus to meet the expectations of their citizens.

In the category of fragile and conflict-ridden countries, understanding the transformation of the role and influence of non-state actors on public administration structures, policies and decision-making in addition to existing joint planning and cooperation mechanisms, needs more attention from scholars.

In the category of stable countries, concepts and practices of management reform, policy planning and decision-making based on New Public Management (NPM) practices, the developmental state, and other public management paradigms will be the driving agenda for the discussion.

The main themes to be addressed could be:

- 1. State Prestige:** Countries emerging from conflict situations face a number of unique challenges in rebuilding their public administration systems—ensuring peace and security, fostering social reconciliation and promoting development. Success depends largely on the effectiveness of public administration and the promotion of an efficient, effective, transparent, accountable and innovative government that works in partnership with all stakeholders. However in most cases, transitional governments are faulted on counts of reducing State Prestige, which hitherto, pre-change governments had.
- 2. Institutional development or State Rebuilding:** Rebuilding appropriate governance and public administration institutions, systems and mechanisms is undoubtedly one of the most critical issues in ensuring peace and security, human rights and socio-economic development in countries emerging from conflict. Every post-conflict situation is unique and requires a unique institutional development strategy, which should begin from an accurate assess.
- 3. Public Service Delivery:** The success of government in a post-conflict society depends on the performance of the public service in providing critical services to the population and restoring trust and confidence in governance.
- 4. Co-construction in Post-Conflict Reconstruction:** An essential ingredient for sustainable peace is participatory governance. However situations of chaos where masses can force changes in line with their immediate interests can be detrimental and lead to an onslaught on state resources. Similarly, the engagement of NGO's, unions and other stakeholders can be an entry point for weakening the State.
- 5. Emergence and modus-operandi of the Deep State in post-conflict situations:** The notion of deep state is similar to that of a «state within the state». Allegedly, the political agenda of the deep state involves an allegiance to nationalism, corporatism, and state interests. Violence and other means of pressure have historically been employed

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in a largely covert manner to manipulate political and economic elites and ensure specific interests are met within the seemingly democratic framework of the political landscape. This subtheme aims to identify instances of the “Deep-State” in post-conflict administration and how policies and decision-making are influenced.

The WG coordinators will accept abstracts with an experimental approach to public policy, public decision-making and policy implementation in post-conflict situations across the above sub-themes and others. All methodological approaches are acceptable.

#### **Working Group VIII: Public Sector Human Resources Management**

##### **Co-chairs:**

- **Christina ANDREWS** (Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil)  
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- **Chafika AGUEZNAY** (Ecole Nationale d'Administration, Morocco)  
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The reconstruction of states in post-conflict situations and the restoration of peace is largely dependent on the functioning of an efficient and effective administration. The role of public administration in the post-conflict consolidation of states has been widely demonstrated. It is recognized that, in addition to its formal functions, public administration is a vector of social change, a lever for economic and social development and a decisive factor in strengthening organizations' capacity to cope with complex situations. Public organizations are now facing several challenges worldwide: wars, conflicts, migration, economic crises, and natural disasters. This means that public servants are working under pressure and duress. In addition, many public services are facing challenges of their own, such as hiring freezes, early retirement plans, poor distribution of human resources, and the absence of well-designed career paths. These dysfunctions constitute sources of demotivation for public servants, contributing to the reduction of their performance and, consequently, to lowering the trust of citizens in the public services.

In this difficult context, public organizations increasingly need employees who are able to innovate, adapt to change, and improve their skills in order to carry out public services' missions efficiently and effectively within a challenging national and international context.

Human resources constitute the main asset of public organizations. Their crucial importance has been increasing alongside with the spread of globalization and other global phenomena, while the internal administrative environments adds pressure to the process. Within the difficult contemporary context, when management practices not always have reached the desired level of rigor, relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, new insights in Human Resources Management theory and practice can help public organizations to accomplish their goals.

Given the context outlined above, we invite proposals for Working Group VIII that may address to the following questions:

- How can public organizations deal with transversal, interdependent problems? In a complex environment, rarely — if ever — social problems have a clear contour or a single cause. What kind of knowledge is necessary to deal with the so called “wicked problems”? How can this knowledge be delivered to public servants?
- What is the role of Human Resources Management in the reconstruction and consolidation of the state? Which kind of tools it can provide to this end?

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- Which is the role that HRM can play in the consolidation of the state and political authority?
- Which HRM practices have been adopted in countries that are recovering from internal conflicts, wars, and economic crises? How successfully these practices have been?
- What are the new trends in HRM in the public sector? Which theories have been orienting the development of HRM knowledge?
- What is the role of HRM in the strategic steering of public services in different levels of government (local, national, international)?

In addition to the issues presented above, we also encourage proposals that address general topics related to Human Resources Management in the public sector.

### Working Group IX: International Dimensions Of Public Administration

#### Chair:

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#### Project Director:

- **Argun AKDOGAN** (TODAIE, Turkey)  
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The globalization process has brought to light a number of issues and challenges for the entire international system and for the countries that compose it, regardless of their development level and degree of international insertion. The increasing number of international commitments in the fields of economic development, public health, defense and security, environmental preservation, poverty eradication, migratory movements, etc. are a direct expression of this reality. These commitments have given rise to the establishment of a myriad of new multilateral governance systems where shared public policies, international mediation and global conflict resolution are designed and implemented.

International commitments assume that national political actions are constructed and articulated in favor of achieving the internationally agreed targets. This can be demonstrated, for example, in the structure of commitments as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Action, treaties on strategic arms reductions and control of severe diseases, cases in which the international success necessarily depends on the ability of national governments at all levels to accomplish internal targets, supported by funding, technical assistance and mediation from multilateral organizations. In this sense, it is evident that a close convergence is needed between actions of national public administrations and the global governance dimension of multilateral organizations. To explore this convergence, Working Group IX was established prior to the IASIA 2015 Conference in Paris. Its objective is to promote theoretical and empirical studies and analyses addressing internationally shared public policy formulation and implementation involving international commitments aimed at global targets. The objective is to advance academic discussion regarding a perspective that is still little explored scientifically but is crucial for global governance: the roundabouts and crossroads of the conceptual frameworks used in Public Policy, Public Administration and International Relations and their integrative theorization in the context of globalization.

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Papers addressing these questions dealing with international or comparative aspects of international governance are most welcome. Applicants are especially invited to address the issue of intercontinental and regional migration crises that are a dominant issue in contemporary international relations. The uncertainty about the sustainability of the migration flows also puts into question the sustainability of the international policies that are expected to deal with these flows and as such warrants academic attention. Besides this special focus, follow-up papers on the themes that were addressed during the 2015 Paris Conference and the 2016 Chengdu Conference will also be taken into consideration.

### Working Group X:

#### **Public Administration's role in building and consolidating post-conflict states**

##### **Chair:**

- **Roberta RYAN** (University of Technology Sydney, Australia)  
Email: [roberta.ryan@uts.edu.au](mailto:roberta.ryan@uts.edu.au)

The Working Group X is for authors who wish to submit an abstract for consideration to the 2017 IASIA-MENAPAR Conference, but do not believe that their topic fits under any of the specific working group of IASIA or special workshop of MENAPAR.

The working group on the theme of the conference "Public administration's role in building and consolidating post-conflict states" aims at discussing the topic in its generality or from a specific perspective. The introduction to the theme on the first page of this call for papers illustrates the topic on its generality.

Scholars as well as practitioners and PhD students are asked to present their papers in the form of theoretical reflections, case studies or comparative analyses.

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### IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

#### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND REVIEW PROCEDURE:

##### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

While more than one abstract can be submitted, only one can be accepted for presentation. An abstract of no more than 400 words, in English or French, must be submitted by the deadline of **26 March 2017**.

Abstracts should be uploaded electronically through [www.iasia-menapar-conference2017.org](http://www.iasia-menapar-conference2017.org). If you need any help, please contact [b.dobra@iias-iisa.org](mailto:b.dobra@iias-iisa.org).

##### SELECTION OF ABSTRACTS

The working groups proceed with the selection of abstracts based on the congruence of the proposal with the call for papers. If needed they suggest, to the authors ways of improving the papers.

##### INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACCEPTANCE STATUS

The authors are informed about the acceptance status of their proposal by **3 March 2017**. The authors whose contribution has been accepted will be invited to submit their full paper according to the guidelines.

##### SUBMISSION OF FINAL PAPERS

Final papers should be uploaded electronically [www.iasia-menapar-conference2017.org](http://www.iasia-menapar-conference2017.org) by the deadline of **15 May 2017**. If you need any help, please contact [b.dobra@iias-iisa.org](mailto:b.dobra@iias-iisa.org).

##### ORGANISATION OF THE WORKING GROUPS' SESSIONS

The final programme of the working groups' sessions will be available on the Conference' website [www.iasia-menapar-conference2017.org](http://www.iasia-menapar-conference2017.org) by the end of May 2017.

##### IMPORTANT:

- All papers which **were not submitted** in full format prior the deadline; all papers of unregistered authors and papers of authors who have not paid the registration fees (prior to the event unless specific notification) **will be withdrawn** from the programme and the authors **will not be allowed** to present their papers at the event.
- Copies of papers will not be provided by the Organizers during the Event. Authors of papers are welcome to bring copies for distribution.

##### DURING THE CONGRESS: PRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION

The authors will be asked to participate in **all the sessions of the working group** in which their contribution has been accepted to react to each other's viewpoint.

A **certificate of participation**, will be delivered namely including paper information, after the closing of the event.

If you need any further information, please contact Mr Bardhyl Dobra, IASIA Executive Secretary ([b.dobra@iias-iisa.org](mailto:b.dobra@iias-iisa.org)).

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Potential presenters should keep in mind that "best papers" selected in the IASIA Working Groups may be considered for publication in the International Review of Administrative Sciences, the e-journal and for nomination for the Pierre De Celles Award.

### **IRAS - International Review of Administrative Sciences**

IRAS is an international peer-reviewed journal devoted to academic and professional public administration. Founded in 1927 it is the oldest scholarly public administration journal specifically focused on comparative and international topics. IRAS seeks to shape the future agenda of public administration around the world by encouraging reflection on international comparisons, new techniques and approaches, the dialogue between academics and practitioners, and debates about the future of the field itself.

Further information about the IRAS is available at

**<http://www.iias-iisa.org/publications/iras-international-review-of-administrative-sciences/>**

### **Developments in Administration: The e-Journal of the IIAS, the IASIA and the Regional Groups of the IIAS**

This e-journal aims at expanding knowledge about developments in the public administration and public sector in countries and regions not extensively covered in the major journals in Public Administration.

Further information about the e-journal is available at

**<http://www.iias-iisa.org/publications/developments-in-administration-the-e-journal-of-the-iias-iasia-and-regional-groups/>**

### **Pierre de Celles Award**

Each year, the Working Groups' Chairs and Project Directors forward the best papers presented in their respective Working Groups to a selection committee consisting of members of the IASIA Board of Management. The papers are then reviewed in line with the following criteria:

- The relevance of the paper for the practice of Public Administration research and training
- The relevance of the paper for the discipline of Public Administration
- The relevance of the paper for the practice of public administration
- Is a multi-disciplinary approach visible in the paper?
- Does the paper contain a novel viewpoint?
- The soundness and consistency of the argumentation
- The originality of the research question/problem formulation
- The quality of the theoretical grounding
- The reliability and validity of the research
- The significance of the findings
- Is the research question/problem answered at the end of the paper?
- The quality of writing
- The readability and lay out

Further information about the Pierre de Celles Award is available at

**<http://www.iias-iisa.org/iasia/awards/pierre-de-celles-award/>**

Useful information:

- Abstract for proposals : max 400 words
- Abstract for the final paper: 100-150 words
- Final paper (including the bibliography): max 6000 words

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