

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 2020

Afio Mai, Mabuhay, and Welcome to the International Network of Asian Public Administrators.

My name is Genesis D. Gavino and it is my honor and pleasure to welcome you. Since 2017, I have been honored to serve as your President and work closely with the Leadership Committee to build a foundation that creates visibility for Asian public administrators. In my day job, I serve as the Interim Deputy Resilience Officer for the City of Dallas where I am tasked with the implementation of the Resilient Dallas Strategy.

I-NAPA became a reality as the direct result of our persistence to be visible, timed perfectly with ICMA's efforts to support diversity and inclusiveness. At ICMA's 2015 Annual Conference in Seattle, keynote speaker Vernā Myers asked attendees to self-identify by various groups. When she called out "Asian," only a handful of people stood among a crowd of a thousand. This moment was our call to action.

## Since then we have been busy! 2016

- ICMA Membership Survey to explore the need for and interest in building a professional network of Asian public administrators
- Survey Results Released at ICMA National Conference in Kansas City, MO during Inaugural I-NAPA Annual Meeting
- First Affiliate Reception with National Forum of Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) and Local Government Hispanic Network (LGHN)
- Launched LinkedIn Group

2017

- Representation at ICMA Regional Conference Panels
- Election of Leadership Committee
- 2<sup>nd</sup> I-NAPA Annual Meeting and Affiliate Reception with NFBPA and LGHN at ICMA National Conference in San Antonio, TX

## 2018

- Launched Social Media Platforms
- Inaugural Strategic Planning Retreat
- 3<sup>rd</sup> I-NAPA Annual Meeting and Affiliate Reception with NFBPA and LGHN at ICMA National Conference in Baltimore. MD
- Ed Shikada (Vice President) Elected to ICMA Executive Board

2019

- I-NAPA Bylaws Adopted
- 4<sup>th</sup> I-NAPA Annual Meeting and Affiliate Reception with NFBPA and LGHN at ICMA National Conference in Nashville, TN

Like I said, we've been pretty busy, but we're just getting started.

Its bittersweet to write this letter as a soon-to-be 'Immediate Past President', but I'm excited for what's ahead as we embark on a new election cycle. Its an opportunity to usher in leadership that will further our mission to elevate the presence of Asian public administrators and provide networking and mentorship opportunities. There's much work to be done but I am encouraged by the growing membership and our shared commitment to diversity and inclusion in the profession.

To stay up to date with I-NAPA, I encourage you to follow us on our various pages: <u>Facebook (@Intl.NAPA)</u>, <u>Twitter (@Intl.NAPA)</u>, and <u>LinkedIn (@I-NAPA)</u>.

Thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime!



