Book Review

College of Politics Governance Mahasarakham University. **Proceedings of the Conference the 4th International Conference on Magsaysay Awardees: Good Governance and Transformative Leadership in Asia**, 2016. 1211 p.

Sida Sonsri[*]

The aim of the 4th International Conference on Magsaysay Awardees: Good Governance and Transformative Leadership in Asia is to provide a platform for Internationals, national and regional policy makers, practitioners and academic to share their experiences, exchange ideas and explore avenues to enhance further the development of good governance experienced by the Magsaysay Awardees across Asia.

This was achieved through a critical examination of 16 subthemes and 78 papers presentation.

The morning session was Introductory and Welcome Remarks by Prof. Sida Sonsri, Dean of COPAG and Chairman of the Conference followed by the Opening Rewards by Prof. Dr. Sampan Rittidech, President of Mahasarakharm University.

This Conference is the great event than past three International Conference that we had, because at this time done in the 5 Honorable MAGSAYSAY AWARDEES who are considered as an Asia equivalent to the Nobel Prize in Asia had addressed their works that they have been the past and in the future. All of them served more and more people whether the immediate community or all of society which provided the lessons learned for us and shared their knowledge of best practice related to good governance and transformative leadership.

[*] *Dean of College of Politics and Governance, Mahasarakham University*.

Keynote Speaker in the morning session is Chairman Mechai Viravaidya who received the 1994 Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service in 1994, the Board of Trustees recognized his mounting creative public campaigns in Thailand to promote family planning, rural development and a rigorous, honest, and compassionate response to the plague of AIDS. He addressed Four Decades of Development Endeavor which encompassed his works since 1965 to start a job with the National Economic and Social Development Board and getting started at the Community Level by founding the Community-Board Family Planning Service (CBFPS) in 1974 which was very successful in reducing population in Thailand until today by his own initiative as transformative leadership.

Moreover, he initiated the health program for the poor village and elaborating a more comprehensive rural development strategy by promoting appropriate technology at the village level by emphasizing renewable energy, simple farm tools and reduction of energy waste and increasing income by telling villagers know where they could look for help through identify their needs. This is the people-centered approach that led to the success of PDA. More than that the Mechai Pattana School was set up as a new road to education provision in rural Thailand.

The second Honorable Speaker is Founder of Gawad Kalinga (GK), Antonio Meloto. He received the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership. His harnessing, the faith and generosity of Filipinos to confront poverty in their homeland and to provide every Filipino the dignity of a decent home and neighborhood was recognized by all over the world.

This is his Builder of Dream. His primary goal was to review what was lost and to bring the best out of it. It transformed the ever known Bagong Silang in Caloocan City into a neighborhood that endowed new, safe, and attractive homes for needy; unlike how it looked like before- where gangsters, young and old and crimes sickened the place. He shared how his action paved way for rehabilitation of the youth who had led wayward lives. He revealed his heart-melting sacrifices just for the accomplishment of his vision.

As a transforming leader of Gawad Kalinga, the growing social movement involved housing for the poor, community development and nation-building in the Philippines by his vision and values "to give care" that is a slum-free, squatter-free nation through simple strategy for providing land for the landless, homes for the homeless, food for the hungers, by Tony and his fellows GK volunteers and as a result, provided dignity and peace for every Filipino. His works is the lessons learned for the transformative leadership all over the world.

The third Honorable Speaker is Director Dr. Cynthia Maung who received Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership in 2002. She concentrated her works on Health Systems in Burma by creating unity, peace and sustainability. Mae Tao Clinic has been founded by her mission and vision to work with clients from Burma living along the Thai-Burma border for over 25 years. She stressed the community health systems in Burma's conflict areas, a fledging peace and news challenges for local communities and health service providers, health as a bridge to peace in Burma, current efforts and opportunities and ongoing challenges to health as a bridge for peace. She concludes that for health to act as a bridge to peace in Burma, health workers from the ethnic and community –based health organizations and from the government needs to work together in joint efforts addressing health policy, health systems strengthening, and service delivery. She further addressed that the recognition of existing health system in the different ethnic minority area is essential, not only for the future of Burma's healthcare systems but also for peace building in Burma.

The fourth speaker is Mr. Sanjiv Chaturvedi who was elected as Ramon Magsaysay Awardees for Emergent Leadership in 2015. He is recognized as his exemplary integrity, courage and tenacity in uncompromisingly exposing and painstakingly investigating corruption in public office, and his resolute crafting of program and system improving to ensure that government honorably serves the people of India.

He addressed his issues in fighting corruption cases in environment sector encountered during tenure in State Forest Department (August 2005-Juine 2012) and issues in health sector encountered during tenure as chief vigilance officer AIIMS (The All India Institute of Medical Sciences).
Although he was successful in anti-corruption in many cases, he still faces the problems in fighting for corruption from the high ranking officers who are the stakeholders, while he gets tremendous support from general public, media courage and NGOs.

The last Honorable Speaker is the Commissioner Laode Muhammad Syarif (KPK) from Indonesia who is the representative of KPK (the Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi). The KPK was elected to receive the Magsaysay Award in 2013 as an independent and successful against corruption in Indonesia.

He mentioned that KPK is an independent government body enabled by a strongly crafted law premised on the conviction that corruption is an extraordinary problem that needs to be tackled by extraordinary means. Thus KPK has a far-reaching mandate, exercising exceptional powers that range from investigation and prosecution to prevention and the coordination of agencies authorized to combat corruption. It can conduct searches and seizures, freeze assets, impose travel bans, compel cooperation from government agencies, and even intercept communications without prior judicial approve. It carries out audits on officials, undertakes public awareness campaigns, and studies government management systems to reduce the potential for corruption. Its accomplishments have been impressive from 2003 to 2012 which has handled 332 high profile cases involving top government officials.

Panels in the afternoon parallel sessions covered 16 themes and 77 articles as follows:

1. Local Government/ Local Administration/ Decentralization
2. Governing Freedom of Expression in the Philippines and Thailand
3. Environmental Governance/ Climate Risk Change
4. Public Policy/ Public reform
5. Strategic Management/ Social Responsibility

6. Education Governance in ASEAN
7. Political Leadership/ Democracy Governance
8. Woman's Leadership
9. Civic Political Culture/Interest Groups
10. Peace Process/ Local Communities/ ASEAN Disputes
11. Law and Good Governance
12. Growth and Development
13. Local Wisdom/ Tourism Management
14. Role of NGO in Japan and Southeast Asia
15. Constitution/ Referendum
16. Social and Economic Development in Laos-PDR

For concluding, all of these topics led to good governance and leadership which encompass strategic direction, plans and policies, effective oversight, regulation, motivation, and partnership that integrate all governance to active results.

Leadership involves strategically developing and implementing plans and policies with accountability and transparency good leadership, which requires the ability to face challenges to achieve results in complex conditions, can and should be practiced at all levels.

This proceeding is a good systematic writing that together in one volume the accumulating knowledge of what is to be known of contemporary global society and internal factor of each country which will be the lessons learned the problems of governance to be good governance.