



THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES II

Proceedings of the IULA Congress
Bangkok, February 6th to 11th, 1967

Electricity, Water, Public Transport

- *Geographical Extension and
Forms of Co-operation*
- *Relations with Local Council
and Executive*
- *Economic Principles*
- *Personnel Matters*
- *Administrative and Financial Aspects*

Local Government and Economic Development Training for Local Government

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PREFACE

The Bangkok Congress marked the first occasion on which IULA held its international meeting in the Far East. To many of those who attended, it proved to be an enlightening and a heartening experience, and all were touched by the friendliness and hospitality with which they were received by their Thai hosts and hostesses.

This was not the first occasion, however, on which IULA had focused its attention on public utilities. The last time was many years ago, in 1929, since when attitudes about the place of utilities in the life of the municipality have undergone many changes. The ownership of such necessities as gas, water, electricity and public transport by local authorities is no longer considered a political issue. Rather, there is acceptance that all citizens should benefit from these services, as well as have some say in their provision, not only through their status as users but as local taxpayers. Too, there is a changing attitude towards the "right" of public utilities to operate at a profit and some consensus on the use to which these profits should be put. It is recognized that in this technological age, continuous improvements are being evolved which, in turn, should be made available to the consumer through up-to-date equipment and ever better service.

One of the most active participants in the congress at Bangkok was IULA President, A. Spinoy. Not only did he preside over several of the plenary sessions but he attended and contributed to sessions of the various working groups and he entered with spirit into the social festivities. It has come as a deep shock to all that this was his last congress. With his death, IULA not only has lost an active leader, but the world of local government has been deprived of one of its chief supporters and ablest spokesmen. We are indeed grateful for the years through which he was associated with us, and we trust that the attitudes and the activities which he encouraged and supported will remain an important feature of our continuing work.

J. G. VAN PUTTEN
Secretary General