



**Asian Productivity Organization (APO)**  
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## Press Release

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### **Asia-Pacific policymakers to develop strategy for increased productivity in higher education**

YOGYAKARTA—Eighteen senior officials of universities, higher education ministries, and policymaking bodies representing 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific will convene to explore how to utilize new methodology to improve the quality of education while reducing operational costs. This is aimed at addressing increasing concerns over the rising cost of higher education in most countries, especially in Asia, making it inaccessible to many of the young and with serious implications for the quality of manpower in the future.

The Asian Productivity Organization (APO), a productivity think tank based in Tokyo, will hold the first Workshop on Raising Productivity in Higher Education, in collaboration with the Directorate of Productivity and Entrepreneurship, Directorate General of Training and Productivity Development of the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, Indonesia, from 7 to 11 October 2013.

Experts such as Prof. Hamish Coates from the University of Melbourne, Australia, Dr. Charles Hatcher of California Competes, USA, and Dr. Louie Divinagracia of the Universitas Pelita Harapan Surabaya will lead discussions on critical elements of productivity improvement and strategies for increasing efficiency and effectiveness in higher education.

Participants will examine best practices in improving productivity and review existing models and methodologies for measuring productivity in higher education. The workshop is expected to develop a framework and action plan for increasing the productivity of academic institutions in APO members.

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#### **About the APO**

The APO was established in 1961 as a regional intergovernmental organization with the mission of contributing to the sustainable socioeconomic development of the Asia-Pacific region through productivity promotion. The current membership comprises 20 economies. The APO supports its member countries through capacity-building efforts such as training courses, workshops, seminars, and other activities to enhance productivity.