

Partnership with Africa continues with BCPP-4

The productivity partnership between the APO and Pan African Productivity Association (PAPA) initially funded by the Government of Japan reached another milestone. With new funding from the Government of the Republic of China, the APO conducted a sixth training course, the Basic Training Course for the Development of Productivity Practitioners (BCPP) 1–26 November 2010, in Johannesburg, South Africa. This was the fourth BCPP and it trained another 16 staff of the NPOs of eight African nations. With the completion of this course, the APO has trained a total of 164 productivity practitioners in Africa. The courses have reached out to nine African nations, including some non-PAPA members. Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia comprise the current PAPA membership. BCPP attendees have also included government officers who can initiate national productivity movements in countries like Burkina Faso, Gambia, and Swaziland.

“The impact of the APO’s contribution in building the institutional capacity of PAPA will go a long way in the history of Africa. There is so much for PAPA to accomplish, and seeing all of you here today is another step toward achieving what would have taken forever to achieve in isolation,” commented PAPA Secretary General and Productivity SA Acting CEO Bongani Coka at the opening of the course. Because the BCPP addresses the skill gaps of African NPO staff and focuses on both process skills and productivity techniques, Senior Consultant Asha Mam of the Botswana National Productivity Centre said that she had been advised by colleagues who had attended previous courses that it was unlike other forms of training and worth spending four weeks away from her family for. At the end of the course, she agreed that it had been an excellent learning experience.

Participant Simelane Siboniselizulu Zanele, from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade of Swaziland, noted that her country had not yet set up any infrastructure for productivity promotion. However, Zanele felt that the knowledge of the experiences of APO member countries would definitely help Swaziland to create an NPO or department for that purpose.



Participants from Gambia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia discussing 5S group work. Photo courtesy of K. Chuen

“The unique nature of the BCPP is the translation of theoretical principles into practice by undertaking a productivity diagnosis of an actual operating business. Through that, we experienced the real feel of what Chief Resource Person Kelvin Chan and other APO resource persons from Asia have patiently and enthusiastically been teaching us,” reported Principal Industrial Economist Ndey Naffie Ceesay of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Industrial Development of Gambia during the closing ceremony. 🌐

Contributed by BCPP-4 Chief Resource Person Kelvin Chan Keng Chuen, Director and Principal Consultant, Teian Consulting International Pte Ltd, Singapore.