

Energy efficiency for SMEs

The APO has been promoting Green Productivity (GP) since 1994, emphasizing three priorities for achieving inclusive, sustainable growth among its members: 1) promoting energy efficiency and cleaner energy; 2) maximizing access to greener products, technologies, and services; and 3) promoting sector reform, capacity building, and improved governance. In line with these priorities, the Korea Productivity Center (KPC) and APO conducted a training course on Energy Efficiency for SMEs in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 17–20 May 2011, with 17 participants. The course improved participants' understanding of the latest energy efficiency and conservation tools and techniques in the region and provided a venue for devising recommendations and action plans tailored for individual countries. The training course



Participants working on action plans. Photo APO/H.K.

also showcased the ROK's latest energy efficiency technologies as well as best practice operations.

“Promoting energy efficiency and conservation is one of the quickest, most effective steps toward achieving sustainable development,” said two experts from the Energy Conservation Center, Japan, Kazuhiko Yoshida and Tsutomu Okamoto. Yoshida stressed, considering the limitations of natural and fossil fuel resources, that growth should be supported by numerous energy efficiency measures and techniques that could easily be adopted, without major investments, by improving daily behavior and energy consciousness. Okamoto introduced a number of energy efficiency and conservation practices utilized by small-scale organizations in Japan, which could easily be put in place by participants.

The participants also had opportunities to learn from Korean experts Jennifer Kim of the Korea Energy Management Corporation, Dr. Seung-Eon Lee of the Korea Institute of Construction Technologies, and Dr. Sanghak Lee of the Korea Electronics Technology Institute, who spoke on their efforts and achievements in managing energy-related policies and operations. In addition, Malaysian expert Maznah Abdul Majid shared Malaysia's experiences and presented case studies.

The participants quickly established good working relationships and exchanged information and ideas on energy efficiency developments and issues in the region. At the end of the training course, one participant summarized its essence: Asia's long-term competitiveness will depend heavily on the intensity of its resource use, and thus managing energy efficiency and conservation will be a key to maintaining its impressive growth momentum as well as making the future sustainable. *Contributed by H.K./APO Industry Department.* 