


# Total productive maintenance applications in SMEs

**T**otal productive maintenance (TPM) combines the practice of preventive maintenance with the concepts of total quality management and total employee involvement for optimizing the use of machines and related manpower resources. It leads to management systems for equipment maintenance which optimize effectiveness, eliminate breakdowns, and promote autonomous operator maintenance through day-to-day activities. TPM has been recognized as an essential part of world-class manufacturing, especially machine-based manufacturing. This can help enterprises to

achieve a competitive advantage in global markets in terms of cost, quality, and delivery.

The National Productivity Organization (NPO) of Bangladesh, in cooperation with the APO, organized a training course on TPM Applications in SMEs, 16–20 May 2011, in Dhaka for 19 practitioners, SME CEOs, and managers from 14 member economies. The course aimed to equip participants with in-depth practical knowledge of TPM applications so that they could promote and utilize them in SMEs in their countries. The event was formally opened by Secretary K.H. Masud Siddiqui, Bangladesh Ministry of Industries, and graced by chief guest Minister of Industries Dilip Barua.

The course was designed following the TPM structure initiated by the Japan Institute of Plant Maintenance. Topics covered included basic principles in measuring overall equipment, the pillars of TPM structure, and steps in TPM implementation. Resource persons in the five-day training course were Japan Management Consultant Kazuteru Chinone, National Productivity Council Deputy Director General Dr. S.K. Chakravorty, Chairman of the Thai TPM Association Songkran Suebvisai, and Prof. M. Ahsan Akhtar Hasin of the Industrial and Production Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

A site visit on 18 May to Rahimafrooz Batteries Ltd., a company established in 1954 that has been certified in ISO9000, ISO14001, and OHSAS 18001 and has a quality management system, environment management system, and safety management system in place, gave the participants firsthand exposure to initiatives for TPM application. Contributed by A. Kritchai/APO Industry Department. 



*L–R: NPO Joint Director Abdul Baqui Chowdhury; Secretary, Ministry of Industries Siddiqui; Minister Barua; NPO Director Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam; and APO Program Officer Kritchai Anakamane. Photo courtesy of NPO Bangladesh.*