

# The APO turns 50

**T**he APO Secretariat, led by Secretary-General Ryuichiro Yamazaki, gathered for a simple toast ceremony in its Tokyo office to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the APO on 11 May 1961. Newly appointed Director of Administration and Finance Sherman Loo called 11 May an “historic day,” as he invited Yamazaki to make anniversary remarks and lead a toast.

The Secretary-General concurred that it was an auspicious occasion for all present and then read a congratulatory telegram from Green Productivity Advisory Committee Chair Keisuke Kitayama, who is also Chairman of Mitsui Sumitomo Banking Corporation, expressing his “highest esteem for the achievements of your organization and hopes for its future prosperity.” During the next year, Secretary-General Yamazaki admitted, Secretariat staff would have a “full agenda” in attempting to follow up on the directives of the Governing Body after the recently concluded session in Kuala Lumpur.

“Everyone should contribute with ideas. We plan to organize task forces and teams to address the many issues.... I hope that the teams can take one step back to view the broader perspective of the entire APO,” stated the Secretary-General. He felt confident that if the entire staff “combine their minds, from which wisdom comes, and their hearts, from which a positive at-



*A&F Director Loo and SG Yamazaki leading the modest ceremony marking the APO's 50th anniversary. Photo APO/A. Donaire.*

titude is derived, we can overcome the difficulties ahead.” Secretary-General Yamazaki ended his remarks with appreciation and respect for productivity predecessors, the NPOs that continually extend their cooperation to the APO, and other stakeholders. 🌀