

Energy management capacity building: A must today

The APO organized a five-day training course on Energy Management Capacity Building, 26–30 September 2011, in Taipei to address the essential questions of who should manage energy and why and how to do it. The training course was co-organized by the Taiwan Environment Management Association, China Productivity Center, and Foundation for Taiwan Industry Service and was supported by the Industrial Development Bureau, Ministry of Economic Affairs, ROC. The Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) also provided an expert to share IEA capacity-building initiatives on energy management.

The course was attended by 25 senior government professionals representing energy ministries and departments, other key stakeholders, and private-sector organizations from 15 APO member economies. “If we do not act now, we will have energy wars” was the opening message to emphasize the urgency of the need to manage energy. The course discussions reiterated that energy management must evolve in an institutional way in developing countries in the Asian region given the limited availability of energy resources. With the rising costs of energy and concerns about global warming, it is imperative that countries establish institutions that promote energy management, energy-efficiency technologies, and energy conservation measures. Such institutions must help industries become globally competitive by making their products energy efficient.

The course also highlighted the need to prepare national and institutional capacity-building frameworks for the development of a pool of energy managers and energy auditors who could serve as catalysts for energy management in industries. In Asia-Pacific countries, there is an alarming lack of such professionals. The course broadened participants’ understanding of the necessary mechanisms to practice sustainable energy management. Participants also made



Training course participants and experts.

observational visits to the energy-efficient building Taipei 101, Cheng Loong Corporation, Ta-Yuan Cogeneration, and ISO 50001-certified AU Optronics.

At the end of the course, the participants individually committed to follow-up actions such as lobbying to include energy-efficiency parameters in building codes, implementing ISO 50000 in their own organizations, and drawing up initiatives for a national certification mechanism for energy managers and energy auditors. The APO Secretariat sent the lists of commitments and suggested initiatives for energy management to the governments of participants’ countries and looks forward to feedback. A Facebook site, EMCB APO Trg Pgm Taipei 2011, was also set up for future networking and sharing of information. “I gained specific knowledge on ESCO, energy labeling, and ISO 50001 which I can use directly back home,” wrote participant Akbari from IR Iran. 