



Bangladesh celebrates first National Productivity Day

The First National Productivity Day was celebrated throughout Bangladesh on 2 October 2012, with colorful posters on main streets, an early-morning awareness rally led by Minister of Industries Dilip Barua, a seminar, and special supplements published by daily newspapers. All mobile phone operators posted the message “Improve Productivity for Efficient Production” following the productivity theme to their millions of customers. The press and electronic media covered related events, with a widely watched talk show on Bangladesh Television. The NPO offered a colorful souvenir publication containing congratulatory messages from the President and Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and APO Secretary-General Ryuichiro Yamazaki.

Three hundred participants representing different sectors of society attended a seminar held at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel. In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest Minister of Industries Barua stressed research on productivity, recalling the multilateral conference held on 2 October last year where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared Productivity Day would be held a year later and advised on the need for sectoral research to provide information to entrepreneurs. The inaugural session was also addressed by President A.K. Azad of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI), President Mohammad Jawaid Yahya of the APO Society for Bangladesh, and NPO Director Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam and chaired by Secretary-in-Charge Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah, Ministry of Industries.

In the working session, a paper on the theme was presented by Professor Shafique uz Zaman, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. He stressed creating a budget for R&D. It



Productivity awareness rally during National Productivity Day. Minister Barua, Secretary in Charge of the Ministry of Industries Moinuddin Abdullah, and representatives of trade bodies and labor unions lead the way. Photo courtesy of NPO Bangladesh.

was estimated that by 2014 the GDP growth rate in Bangladesh could be increased by 1% if appropriate investment were made in R&D. The participants discussed skill development, infrastructure problems, corruption, political instability, the environment for foreign direct investment, labor-management cooperation, educational human resources, reduction of wastage, and resource conservation and protection of the environment. Recommendations were also made on energy efficiency, waste reduction, upgrading management capability, and the need for trained manpower for productivity improvement. The seminar ended with a vote of thanks given by NPO Joint Director and APO Liaison Officer for Bangladesh Abdul Baqui Chowdhury. The first-ever National Productivity Day created a great sensation in every corner of society all over the country. *Contributed by Abdul Baqui Chowdhury, APO Liaison Officer for Bangladesh and Joint Director, NPO, Bangladesh.* 