


Strengthening of NPOs

The Research and Planning Department conducted a coordination meeting for its research project on Strengthening of NPOs Assistance Program (SNAP) at the APO Secretariat in Tokyo, on 27 and 28 May. Fifteen national experts from 15 NPOs of APO members and one chief expert participated. The objectives of SNAP are to: enhance institutional development and capacity development programs for NPOs; strengthen NPOs in the delivery of services to stakeholders in their countries; and improve the visibility of NPOs as productivity movement leaders. In achieving these objectives, SNAP will review APO programs for NPO capability building and institutional strengthening; assess the performance of each NPO including profiling of resources and programs; identify the core competencies of each NPO including strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; identify the emerging roles and challenges of NPOs resulting from sociopoliticoeconomic changes; and identify the organizational development, capacity building, and institutional support needs of NPOs to lead productivity-related initiatives.

In his welcome remarks, Secretary-General Mari Amano emphasized the significance of SNAP to NPOs because, “Any recommendations made that will strengthen NPOs and improve the APO’s services will pave the way for achieving the ambitious vision of being the leading international organization on productivity enhancement, enabling APO economies to be more productive and competitive by 2020.” He added that, “Since the national experts are mostly representatives from the NPOs of member countries, the APO

has high expectations that they will help in finding ways that will make our projects and activities more relevant, valuable, and helpful in meeting the needs of all stakeholders to achieve our common goal of increased productivity.”

Given this backdrop, the national experts expressed their strong commitment and dedication to undertaking the research.

The output of SNAP will also contribute to the ongoing planning of the APO 2020 Road Map. As SNAP is a one-year project, the national experts will be immersed in research and data gathering not only from NPOs but also from their various stakeholders. Although time was short during the two-day meeting, it was just sufficient to discuss the methodology and framework, and all the experts pledged to contribute to adding the final touches. The chief expert for this research is Dr. Robin Mann, a leading proponent of the business excellence concept and the founder and director of the Center for Organizational Excellence at Massey University, New Zealand. 



Participants in the SNAP coordination meeting.