

# Zambian productivity mission to Japan and Malaysia

**T**he Roundtable Conference for the Promotion of the Productivity Movement in Africa last August (*see APO News Oct. 2006 issue*) spawned a number of follow-up activities. For example, the APO sponsored the attendance of eight participants from four African countries in the Development of Productivity Specialists Program, the Philippines, 9–27 October 2006. On 30 October, the APO Secretariat received a 12-person top-level mission from Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius, and South Africa under the auspices of the Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development (JPC-SED), which hosted another multicountry African mission in January 2007. That nine-member mission visited the Secretariat on 15 January. The first individual-country mission was from Zambia to Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur on 18–19 and 21–22 December 2006, respectively, hosted by the APO and the Malaysian National Productivity Corporation (NPC).

The Zambian mission of five, led by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security Ngosa Chisupa, sought insights on the role of an NPO in national development, contributions to socioeconomic transformation, and organizational structure, funding arrangements, and operations. Zambia plans to set up an autonomous NPO. In Tokyo, the Zambian mission visited the Secretariat where it spoke with Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka and was briefed by Consultant Yoshikuni Ohnishi and Director for Information and Public Relations N.G. Kularatne. At the JPC-SED, it sought information on the work of the organization, including a visit to the International Productivity Center at Hayama. The mission also paid courtesy calls



*Zambian mission members*

on the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and toured Nissan Motor's Oppama Plant.

In Malaysia, the Zambian mission was received by NPC Deputy Director-General Goh Swee Seang and briefed extensively on the role and functions of the organization, productivity-linked wage systems, benchmarking and best practices, and the productivity and competitiveness performance of Malaysia. It also visited the Malaysian Administration and Modernization Unit of the Prime Minister's Office for discussions.

In his letter of appreciation to the APO, Zambian NPO Head Choobe described the mission as very educational and as having opened a new chapter in Zambia's productivity drive. 