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New Year Message


APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka

It is my pleasure to wish all *APO News* readers a very happy, prosperous, and productive New Year. I want to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all who have supported the APO in carrying out its mission of enabling its member countries to achieve greater competitiveness and higher socioeconomic growth through enhancing productivity.

Last year saw various measures considered or undertaken to strengthen the APO Secretariat and for the organization to be more responsive to the expectations of member countries. This issue reports on the restructuring of the Secretariat. The changes and innovations are expected to continue in the next couple of years. A key undertaking will be a thorough review of the planning and strategic thrust of the APO programs vis-à-vis those of member countries to provide maximum support to them. Among the areas that warrant special consideration are knowledge management, service-sector productivity, eco-product promotion, food safety and security, and productivity measurement.

In 2006, the APO took an important step forward in what we hope will be a key contribution to the global productivity movement. There has been a worldwide surge in interest in productivity in recent years. After more than four decades of driving productivity, APO member countries in Asia and the Pacific have amassed a wealth of knowledge of and experience in productivity promotion, improvement, and measurement which other regions are keen to tap. Realizing this and the potential benefits to member countries, the APO launched its African Program with special funding from Japan. The Secretariat has also received requests by regional and international organizations for assistance for Latin American countries.

In embarking on this global role, APO member countries must work even harder to stay ahead. It is hoped that this will spur innovations and unleash a new growth curve that will take them to even greater heights of achievement. This is my New Year wish for member countries.

Productivity improvement continues to be an essential component in the creation of national wealth and improving the welfare of people. A key role of the APO is to sustain awareness of this in its member countries and elsewhere. I seek your ongoing support as the APO strives to fulfill this and other tasks embodied in its mission. 



"Design is like cooking. A symphony of different materials is the spices to create different dishes. I always start each project from ground zero and find inspiration everywhere. Everything is consequential."

Antony Chan

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The *APO News* wishes all of its readers a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2007.



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