

New officers at APO Secretariat

On 1 August, Yoshikazu Kihira joined the Industry Department in the Secretariat. After obtaining a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Tokyo's Chuo University, where he specialized in accounting theory and practice, he was employed for 17 years by the Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development (JPC-SED). At the JPC-SED, Kihira's wide-ranging responsibilities included organizing training courses and seminars on corporate governance, the balanced scorecard, etc.; developing a database of resource persons; budgeting and accounting; initiating a Web site marketing project; and developing a dedicated online portal for seminars in collaboration with 25 major Japanese enterprises. He stated, "I would like to contribute to the socioeconomic development of the Asian region by fully utilizing my intensive experience at the JPC-SED." In addition, as a Japan Quality Award Self-Assessor, Kihira hopes to use that skill to help optimize Secretariat operations. In his time off the job, Kihira enjoys trekking in the mountains with his wife.



Eriko Katashiro joined the APO Secretariat as an officer in the Industry Department on 17 July. Born in Japan, she received a BA in economics in Tokyo and during that course was an exchange student to Maastricht University, the Netherlands. Subsequently Katashiro attended the New York University (NYU) Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, where she earned a Master's degree in Public Administration and focused on public and nonprofit organization policy and management. Her professional history includes internships at UN Headquarters, UNIDO, and the NYU Institute of Public Administration. She served as a wholesaler for a financial institution, a researcher at the Japan External Trade Organization, and more recently as a program coordinator for the Japan International Cooperation Agency, where she was involved in SME promotion, technical assistance for trade and investment, and other areas. Katashiro divides her free time into playing the piano, surfing, jogging, snowboarding, yoga, and flower arrangement.

