



# APO NEWS

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p. 5, Study meeting, ROK



p. 6, Workshop, Indonesia



p. 8, Study meeting, ROC

## Forming a productivity network: APO alumni

**A**t the first session of the APO Alumni Forum, held in Indonesia, 14–16 July, each participant took the e-mail address of one other and all pledged to ask their partners three questions via e-mail within two weeks: “Have you carried out any follow-up activities?” “What are the key challenges in following up?” “What did you do to overcome those challenges?” The idea was to ensure that actions would be taken for the establishment or expansion of APO alumni bodies in member countries. The participants agreed that APO project alumni can play an important role in national and regional productivity networks to yield multiplier effects. It is important to derive additional benefits from sharing their knowledge and experience.



Participants and resource speakers at the Alumni Forum

Currently, Bangladesh, IR Iran, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand have APO alumni bodies, and other member countries are planning to follow suit. The activities and best practices of the Singapore Productivity Association (SPA) and the APO Society of Thailand were presented by SPA Executive Director Low Hock Meng and the Thailand Productivity Institute's International Relations Department Manager Attanon Tassaneeya, respectively. Important factors in the success of an alumni network were cited as effective alignment of alumni activities with the national productivity movement and a close working relationship with the NPO. Indonesia Productivity Professionals Association (IPPA) Head Moedjiman explained how the IPPA supports productivity improvement efforts by the NPO. The examples of Bangladesh, IR Iran, and the Philippines were also introduced in country papers.



Publications by APO alumni bodies

In addition, the forum invited Dr. Sung Soo Kim, President of the Asia Pacific Association of Educators in Agriculture and Environment (APEAEN), an international association born from a 1997 APO project. His presentation on the history and activities of the APEAEN provided a possible avenue for expanding APO alumni activities beyond national borders.

Forum participants drew up follow-up plans for alumni activities, although concluding that each country had its own requirements for alumni activities. Director Ab. Rahim Yusoff, Corporate Services and Finance Division of the Malaysia Productivity Corporation, noted that, “The alumni models of the six member countries provided good inputs for other countries which have not yet launched their own, including Malaysia. The NPOs should study those models and modify them according to their requirements. We would also like to ask the APO to provide guidelines or suggestions for possible options.”

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