



Comment board



William Lee, *Planning and Operations Management Group, Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology*

Resource Person, multicountry observational study mission on Advanced Production Systems, 26 November–7 December 2007, Japan.

“One of the project objectives was to learn about the lean production system through workshops and plant visits to Japan-based manufacturing

companies. It is clear that lean production or lean manufacturing is the best way forward to improve the competitiveness and performance of a company. It is also evident from the country papers presented that companies in those nations have started to adopt lean systems in companies and achieved tangible performance improvements. However, most companies have only adopted a small subset of the tools and concepts propounded. Additionally, there is an obvious lack of a clear roadmap for implementation as well as the management of this change process. Lean production is not a fad but a commitment to manufacturing excellence. It is not a one-off project but a long-term plan for continuous improvement.”

Consultant/Trainer Meli Nacuva, Management, Manufacturing and Information Technology Training Division, TPAF, Fiji.

Participant, multicountry observational study mission on the Toyota Production System, 3–14 December 2007, Japan.

“As an industrial engineering consultant, it is my responsibility to seek out

methodologies and best practices for efficient, effective, and competitive manufacturing and incorporate these into our local industries. Therefore, I aimed to investigate all the details of the Toyota Production System (TPS) and obtain hands-on experience from resource persons and site visits. In my view, the project was a success due to the resourceful experts, well-structured program, and properly designated venue and implementing organization. At the moment, my priorities lie with those in our country who have been implementing portions of the TPS. I will assist them in adopting the TPS through in-house training programs and consultancy. A general public training program is also scheduled for 2008 and this will be the steppingstone for the APO-TES training program in 2009.”

Managing Director Boramey Rithyuth Heng, Foods and Beverage Ltd., Cambodia

Participant, multicountry training course on Improving Food Safety and Quality Management under the APE-LDC Special Program, 20–29 November, Thailand.

“I appreciated this training course. It is very important for us to understand what food safety and quality are since there is a lack of awareness and strict control in Cambodia. This course was the key to the future development of our national food industry. During the course, we made presentations and shared plans for a national training course on food safety management for various concerned stakeholders with project experts and participants. I am sure that a future local training course will provide a good opportunity to create and promote awareness of the need for food safety within Cambodia.”