



# APO NEWS

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## New Year message from APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka

It is my great pleasure to wish all *APO News* readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support for and cooperation with the APO over the past year. Our mission of creating a better tomorrow through productivity improvement today would not be possible without you.

The past year was a year of change for the APO. The Governing Body Meeting held in Mongolia in June endorsed a new biennial budgeting system that will significantly change the procedures of APO program planning and budgeting. The groundwork necessary for the transition was successfully laid thanks to the sage advice and wise counsel of member countries.



The Secretariat, having started 2007 by streamlining the organizational structure from six departments to four, has adapted well to the changes, with improved communication and coordination among departments. Charged with renewed energy and dynamism, not only has the Secretariat made great strides in improving its current services but also in developing new projects and new methods, identifying specific needs of member countries, and seeking out emerging areas of potential benefit. The fact-finding missions dispatched to other regions in early 2007 reflected the APO's determination to be at the forefront of productivity trends in the Asia-Pacific region. Closer cooperation with other world-renowned institutions will strengthen the APO's think tank role, bringing expertise and knowledge from all corners of the world to improve enterprises here in the Asia-Pacific. The introduction of new two-tiered approaches, extensive application of e-learning methods, and new modalities for the development of NPO programs increased our capability to assist the national productivity movements in member countries.

Efforts to create a better tomorrow based on productivity improvements today will continue in 2008. New concepts and areas will be thoroughly investigated and then incorporated as appropriate into project planning and design to benefit member countries. New methods and trials will be devised whenever a leadership initiative is required. All these resolutions and promises will become reality only with the active participation and support rendered by productivity experts, practitioners, and stakeholders within and beyond our member countries. With your full cooperation, the APO can be relentless in the pursuit of higher productivity, which is fundamental to economic progress, prosperity, and the well-being of the people in the region. I look forward to receiving your continued support in fulfilling our mission. 

### New Year message from the *APO News*

The *APO News* would like to wish all our readers a happy, healthy, and productive 2008. The monthly newsletter starts the year with a full-color format featuring new columns. We hope to deliver more informative and useful reports to assist productivity practitioners and stakeholders within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region in making a difference in the lives of all. Your suggestions and feedback are always welcomed and appreciated.