

# New Year messages from APO member countries

"A new year always comes with hope for progress and prosperity. In these changing times, life is gradually becoming more challenging and competitive than in previous years. In the era of global competition for survival, I hope that *APO News* readers can overcome all the challenges for a better tomorrow. I also wish the readers of the *APO News* a happy and productive 2009."

*Director Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam, National Productivity Organization, Bangladesh*

"In the face of various difficulties caused by the rapid changes in the global socioeconomic environment, the Cambodian government has developed its own national strategies not only to cope with those challenges but also as steppingstones to future growth. The National Productivity Center of Cambodia, in seeking out the best ideas for advancing our country, would like to join all *APO News* readers on their journey to productivity in this new year of 2009!"

*Director Yea Bunna, National Productivity Center of Cambodia*

"2008 brought drastic changes to the global economy, including energy price surges and the financial crisis. Although the economic environment will be full of uncertainties in 2009, I sincerely wish all *APO News* readers the vision to see in the crisis an opportunity for turning things around and hope that they will demonstrate courage in bringing about a more prosperous future."

*President Dr. Pao-Cheng Chang, China Productivity Center*

"After his landslide victory, US President Elect Barack Obama said that change had come to America. One wonders and hopes that he will be able to translate such changes into the global economy. What is certain, however, is that at the national level we have control over what we can change to bring about positive effects for our nation, enterprises, and ultimately our people. The challenges of 2009 will be considerable with forecasts of a slowdown in the global economy, but we must move forward in a positive manner with renewed hope for a positive change. We wish all member countries the very best in 2009."

*Director General Jone Usamate, Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji*

"We can all come out of the present economic crisis by 'being together,' having a 'cost focus,' and

being 'innovative in our approach' in all spheres of the economy. We wish a bright and prosperous New Year to all readers of the *APO News*."

*Deputy Director General Udai Shankar Singh, National Productivity Council, India*

"If your ships almost sank in 2008 due to the surging economic crisis, only one key can keep you afloat in the new year: Productivity."

*Director of Productivity Yunani Roaidah, Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, Indonesia*

"Each year is distinguished by its unique achievements and challenges. Each country responds to these challenges with different attitudes and different measures. But there is one common answer. Productivity improvement should be considered to be the fundamental strategy that can transform passive countries into proactive ones and lead to success in growth and development. I hope that 2009 will be the best year ever for the great APO family, much better than previous ones, and that we will enjoy the blessings of productivity."

*APO Director of IR Iran Mohsen Haji Mirzaie, Head of National Iranian Productivity Center*

"Facing the global financial crisis, the role of NPOs in enhancing the foundation for sustainable economic growth has become ever more important. The productivity movement, centering on the human element and long-term management vision, is the antipode of management practices that solely pursue tangible profit, one of the main causal factors in the crisis. We need to reconfirm the importance of the productivity concept and implement practical activities, especially ones leading us to an improved quality of working life."

*President Tsuneaki Taniguchi, Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development*

"The new year of 2009 offers hope that the ever-expanding economic crisis and social confusion will subside. I strongly believe that we are able to overcome any problem if we work together. We all have moments of desperation, but in facing problems head-on, we find out just how strong we really are. Faith and humanity are great assets when coping with hardship and creating positive change in our Asia-Pacific region. It is my belief that the new year will bring new hope and a better tomorrow. I wish all *APO News* readers a Happy New Year."

*Acting CEO and Chairman Woo Keon Park, Korea Productivity Center*

"The year 2008 has been challenging for all nations, due to the fluctuation of oil prices, financial crisis, and other effects of the economic downturn. We recognize that such challenges will be a great opportunity for growth. The new year of 2009 has arrived. I sincerely hope all nations will have a good start on the journey to a prosperous and successful future."

*Director General Somdy Inmyxai, Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion and Development Office, Lao National Productivity Organization*

"Malaysia has been well insulated from recent global economic and financial challenges due to initiatives and continuous support from many quarters. One such supporter is the APO, which has spearheaded programs and activities to prepare NPOs to meet these challenges. I hope that all *APO News* readers will continuously support APO initiatives to create new knowledge and human capital development in our quest to enhance member countries' competitiveness."

*Director General Dato' Nik Zainiah Nik Abd. Rahman, Malaysia Productivity Corporation*

"Greetings from a hopeful Mongolia! 2008 was an eventful year; the events were by turn good, delightful, surprising, disappointing, and depressing. Now, we are entering a new year with our hearts filled with the hope that 2009 will bring good news in all aspects of our lives. May all your dreams come true in this new year and may all your efforts bring great achievements."

*Chairman and President Dr. Pagvajav-Un Shurchuluu, National Productivity and Development Center, Mongolia*

"The National Productivity and Economic Development Centre, the NPO of Nepal, would like to wish all *APO News* readers a joyful and prosperous New Year. Although recent months have been difficult and have brought clouds of doubt to many countries including APO member countries, we hope that future prospects for all our fellow members will be as clear and golden as the views on a sunny day from our majestic Himalaya Mountains."

*General Manager Yuddha Bahadur Pant Chhetri, National Productivity and Economic Development Centre, Nepal*

“NPOs are catalysts, the agents of change that bring prosperity to our countries through the enhancement of productivity and quality under the umbrella of the APO. We are the ones to change the quality of life of our people and take the lead in making Asia and the Pacific stronger so that we can live with dignity and honor and ensure that future generations will prosper in the years to come. I hope that all *APO News* readers will help their NPO carry out its mission by sharing productivity experiences, knowledge, ideas, and wisdom in the new year of 2009!”

*Chief Muhammad Javed Malik, National Productivity Organization, Pakistan*

“Inspired by the philosophy of continuous improvement and the mission to propagate productivity and quality improvement, may the year 2009 usher in our renewed commitment, hope, and confidence that productivity practitioners in APO member countries will be able to contribute to alleviating the firm-level, economic, and environmental challenges ahead. Wishing all *APO News* readers a joyous, peaceful, healthy, and productive 2009!”

*President Antonio D. Kalaw, Jr., Development Academy of the Philippines*

“It has been a fruitful year for the APO despite the economic downturn in the last quarter of 2008. 2009 will pose new challenges for all of us as the global economy suffers a significant slowdown. Hence, there is an even greater role for NPOs to help their respective economies, industries, and enterprises to improve productivity to cope with the challenging environment. I wish all *APO News* readers every success in the new year.”

*Chief Executive Png Cheong Boon, SPRING Singapore*

“Every month the *APO News* brings us good news about productivity-related activities in member countries. It has bound us together in our efforts to overcome development challenges. I hope that the momentum generated by the *APO News* will be further strengthened in 2009 and wish all *APO News* readers a happy and a prosperous new year.”

*Secretary Mahinda Madihahewa, Ministry of Labour Relations and Manpower, Sri Lanka*

“The year 2008 was recorded as one of the most turbulent years for Thailand in history, both politically and economically. This is a prelude of what is to come in 2009. In this situation, only those who are the strongest will survive. The strongest companies are characterized as quality driven, focusing on customers, ethical, and people and result oriented. These characteristics are what we call productivity. Let 2009 and beyond be the years that we focus on productivity as we conduct our business and also our lives. By doing so, we will be producing a brighter future and will be prepared to face any upcoming economic crisis.”

*Executive Director Dr. Phanit Laosirirat, Thailand Productivity Institute*

“The year 2008, a remarkably hard year, is over. In this new year, I believe that we will be able to turn all the obstacles we face into keys for achieving improvement by responding proactively to internal and external difficulties with passion and rationality. If so, then for us, and for all *APO News* readers with the right spirit, 2009 will become the Year of Golden Opportunity. With that thought, I am happy to wish you all a Very Good New Year!”

*Managing Director Nguyen Anh Tuan, Vietnam Productivity Centre*