

Messages from Secretariat directors

“The staff of the Research and Planning Department wish all readers a very fruitful 2009 ahead. The past year saw our think tank function strengthened with new research modalities and the introduction of projects on emerging issues impacting member countries. We will step up our efforts to ensure that the outcomes of the research activities will be of benefit to member countries to cope with new challenges arising from the global business environment.”

Research and Planning Department Director Mukesh D. Bhattarai

“The Agriculture Department wishes all *APO News* readers another productive year in 2009. The past year was a very challenging one for the agriculture and food sector as food supplies became scarce, food prices soared, and food contamination cases alarmed consumers worldwide. These issues highlighted the relevance of our intervention in this sector as a catalyst for strengthening regulatory institutions in the food industry and the development of national capabilities in the area of food quality and safety management. Our initiatives supporting the modernization of agriculture and sustainable production of biofuels also helped policymakers make informed decisions in pursuit of national food security, climate and environmental goals, energy security, and opportunities for creating jobs and income in the countryside. We remain focused in our interventions in areas that are critical in addressing these persistent issues in member countries.”

Agriculture Department Director Song H. Choi

“The staff of the Industry Department wish all readers good health and happiness. The key word for this year is ‘change.’ No matter which types of change occur, whether economic, political, or social, we should not forget that these are created by humans. Human resources development also changes results. We would like to keep this point in mind in organizing our programs for further productivity enhancement in the region.”

Industry Department Director Takuki Murayama

“Everyone in the Administration and Finance Department extends best wishes for 2009 to the *APO News* readership. Although 2008 ended with economic turbulence and uncertainties in the news, we should remember that the basis of productivity is doing more with less. With prudence and creativity, productivity-related practices in our personal lives and at work can make 2009 a prosperous, peaceful year for our region.”

Administration and Finance Department Director Dr. A.K.P. Mochtan