


Joint effort to boost entrepreneurship in Asia

"Entrepreneurship is neither a science nor an art. It is a practice," asserted the father of modern management theory Peter Drucker, who believes that entrepreneurship entails action, specifically starting new businesses in response to identified opportunities. This, however, is often such a difficult undertaking that only individuals with an entrepreneurial spirit driven by the need "to search for change, respond to it, and exploit it as an opportunity" instinctively seek to do so.

particularly appreciated by participants. "Their passionate delivery was very inspiring and effective, so that all of us were eager to hear and learn more," said Director Data Magfur, Data Enterprises Ltd., Bangladesh. A site visit to the Rainwater Recycling System in Tokyo's Sumida ward was called "an eye-opening experience." 

In an effort to nurture the entrepreneurial drive in member countries, the APO organized a joint conference on Entrepreneurship in Asia in collaboration with the nonprofit Honda Foundation (HOF), which promotes innovation and entrepreneurship, and various Japanese business incubators, 17–23 November 2008. The conference ran concurrently with Japan's Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) starting November 17. GEW began in 2004 when the UK's then-Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown proposed collective promotion of entrepreneurship which expanded to the USA and Japan.

The conference, a series of presentations, site visits, and GEW events, introduced the basic concepts and options and opportunities for entrepreneurial initiatives. "It was a great learning experience for all participants. The conference confirmed our belief that an entrepreneur needs to be innovative and passionate about his or her work and venture," commented Technology Specialist Muhammad Usman Habib, Technology Upgradation and Skill Development Company, Pakistan. All 19 participants were entrepreneurs, NPO trainers, consultants, or governmental officials involved in promoting entrepreneurship.



At Rainwater Recycling System in Sumida ward

Two events commemorated GEW Japan, in Tokyo and Kyoto. The APO, HOF, and Graduate Institute of Policy Studies and Center for Entrepreneurship and Leadership Studies for Regional Economies jointly organized a one-day lecture in Tokyo. In Kyoto, the event was held in collaboration with Ritsumeikan University. Invited speakers included successful entrepreneurs, potential entrepreneurs, officials from supporting organizations and institutions, and academics training future entrepreneurs. A presentation on a successful venture, Tully's Coffee Japan Co., Ltd., was given by founder Kouta Matsuda and venture capitalist Hitoshi Suga. William H. Saito, a Japanese-American entrepreneur known for creating a security business based on fingerprint identification technology, also gave a lively account of his venture. These presentations were