

# Productivity Association of Sri Lanka established

**O**n 2 November 2008, the National Productivity Secretariat (NPS) of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Presidential Task Force for Productivity Improvement established the Productivity Association of Sri Lanka (PASL), the Sri Lankan APO alumni body. The inaugural ceremony took place at the Labor Secretariat in Colombo.

Secretary to the President of Sri Lanka Lalith Weeraratunga and APO Director for Sri Lanka Mahinda Madihahewa, who also serves as the Sri Lankan Ministry Secretary for Labour Relations and Manpower, cochaired the inaugural meeting. During the session, Madihahewa was elected to serve as the first president of the PASL. The ceremony was attended by about 300 members of government and representatives of industrial organizations and institutions, the private sector, and trade unions.



*PASL inaugural ceremony*

The PASL was established with the participation of local productivity experts, who also compose the bulk of its membership. The association's main objective is to develop mechanisms that will allow them to use their knowledge, skills, and experience as catalysts to add impetus to the national productivity movement. The PASL is an independent nonprofit organization operating with guidance and support from the NPS and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Manpower. The NPS will work with the association to meet the rising demand for productivity-related services by using the PASL as a resource pool for its activities.

“Participants in the ceremony were very taken with the idea of establishing a productivity network like this. The PASL will provide a great many people

the opportunity to join the productivity movement. The majority of people attending the ceremony applied for membership, as did many institutions,” commented APO Alternate Director and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Labour Relations and Manpower D.L. Kumaradasa. Kumaradasa took part in the 2008 APO Alumni Forum held in Indonesia and gave a presentation on that forum to the PASL audience.

The PASL will also work closely with the APO alumni bodies of other member countries to learn from their experience. This will also allow APO alumni bodies to develop a collective best practice network. The APO will continue to provide necessary assistance to its alumni bodies via the NPOs of the countries involved. 