



Comment board

Mr. Brian C. Tan, BMI Management Inc., Philippines.

Participant, multicountry observational study mission on Export Promotion of Agrifood Products, Japan, 2–7 March 2009.

“The sharing of ideas and networking among peers from various Asian countries opened up new opportunities for us. As a Philippine food exporter, there is a lot to gain from the best practices in other countries. During the study mission, we visited FOODEX 2009, and when I participated in the APO study mission to France last year, I attended the world’s largest food industry show, le Salon International de l’Agroalimentaire (SIAL). Attending foreign trade shows gives insights on new design trends, packaging, health and safety standards, and product innovation. The trips to SIAL and JAPAN FOODEX were both eye openers. I was especially impressed by the Japanese attention to detail and commitment to kaizen. These are some aspects that I wish to carry over to my business and to instill in the minds of local food processors so that Philippine food products may also excel in the global arena.”

University Researcher III **Dr. Blesilda Macasaet Calub**, Agricultural Systems Cluster, University of the Philippines Los Banos.

Participant, multicountry observational study mission on Advanced Technologies for Greenhouse Farming, Republic of Korea, 16–20 February 2009.

“The other participants and I agreed that the program was informative and useful. Toward the end of the course, we were sharing ideas on how to adapt the advanced greenhouse technologies of the Republic of Korea to our own countries using local resources and expertise. I was impressed by the concern of farmers to ensure that greenhouse-cultivated vegetables met food safety standards. Instead of synthetic pesticides, they use biological agents and environment-friendly methods for the control of crop pests and diseases. The

government and private sector developed this effective technology and made it easily available to farmers. I will encourage my university to intensify efforts to promote and commercialize scientific research results for practical use by Philippine farmers. The knowledge I gained from this study visit is relevant to organic vegetable production and the marketing project we are promoting among small farmers and local agricultural extension staff.”



Senior Research Officer **Rajendra Ratna Bajracharya**, National Productivity and Economic Development Centre, Nepal.

Participant, training course on Performance Management Systems for the Public Sector, IR Iran, 14–18 February 2009.

“Given the importance of efficient public management systems in improving the productivity and quality of all other areas, I appreciate the APO’s initiatives in selecting the public sector to be a new thrust area for support. I attended the first two projects organized by the APO to strengthen public-sector agencies in member countries. The workshop held in the Republic of Korea last year was the first, with the training course in IR Iran being the follow-up. The project in IR Iran focused on imparting practical knowledge on integrated result-based management and performance-based budgeting for the public sector. This course featured many practical examples, and I found both projects to be appropriate for current needs. To move forward in this direction, I hope that the APO will conduct research on the problems and constraints of public-sector agencies in member countries. This would certainly assist participants who wish to apply and disseminate the knowledge gained from the previous projects to strengthen public-sector agencies.”