

People behind the scenes:

JPC team of the APO workshop on The 3Rs


When asked the most impressive thing they had learned from APO projects held in Japan, nine of 10 participants spoke of the unique Japanese work culture and attitude. "Ownership, artisanship, and a strong sense of responsibility" are some descriptions participants use when identifying the key factors underlying successful companies and practices. One of the best places to witness these virtues in action is at the NPO of Japan, the Japan Productivity Center (JPC).

Participants in a recent APO workshop on The 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) held in Japan, 28 September–2 October, witnessed firsthand the Japanese pursuit of excellence combined with strong teamwork from staff members of the JPC, the implementing organization of the workshop. Thus, this month's heroes described in People Behind the Scenes are the JPC team who successfully completed the workshop with more than 70% of participants evaluating it as "exceeding expectations." The team members are Sayaka Harada, Toshifumi Arimori, and Yoshimi Izumi, all of whom belong to the JPC's International Cooperation Department.

"A key objective of the workshop was to provide participants with the opportunity to learn the best practices of the 3Rs in Japan. Therefore, we had many Japanese speakers and site visits. The excellent coordination and physical arrangements of the JPC team ensured that the project was

successful," commented the APO officer in charge of the workshop.

The workshop also demonstrated the strong teamwork of JPC staff. The planning and preparations for the workshop were conducted by Arimori, Harada was responsible for implementation and evaluation, and Izumi provided overall assistance. The sharing of information, roles, and responsibilities during the entire process was achieved in a highly professional manner. "The job has been completed flawlessly," commented an APO Secretariat staff member.

Harada humbly attributed the success of the seminar to its active participants. "The seminar participants were very enthusiastic and always asked a lot of questions. Most of the companies we visited were very pleased with their enthusiasm and passion and offered to host another visit next year." Harada, mentioning "a sense of humor" as the strength and special feature of the JPC team, added that, "We feel rewarded when we hear about the tangible actions taken and achievements made by participants after returning to their countries." If you saw their sincerity and passion at work, you would realize that she meant it. 



(L-R) Harada, Arimori, and Izumi