

## APO Alumni Association in Korea formed

**T**he Republic of Korea (ROK) has become the 10th member country with an APO alumni association, a productivity network formed by participants in APO projects. These associations allow members to share knowledge and expertise. The APO Alumni Association of Korea was established by the Korea Productivity Center (KPC), the national productivity organization of the ROK, with the inaugural meeting held on 15 December 2009.

The KPC has received many requests to organize a gathering of experts which would allow them to share their experiences and practices. The groundwork for setting up the alumni body started in September in 2009. This small but pragmatic learning organization has been established with around 100 applications. KPC Vice Chairman Woo-Keon Park will lead the alumni association as the first chair. Dr. Sung Soo Kim, former President of the Asia-Pacific Association of Education in Agriculture and Environment, an international association that developed from an APO project, will act as an adviser.

The KPC played host to the inaugural meeting of the APO Alumni Association of Korea at the Best Western Premier Hotel Kukdo in Seoul. The meeting, which was attended by 45 participants, kicked off with welcoming remarks from First Chair Park, followed by a round of introductions by participants. Selected individuals were then invited to make short remarks. They then became better acquainted by talking about their experiences in APO projects and other productivity activities.



*Participants at the inaugural meeting*

The KPC is planning to organize regular meetings where association members strengthen their network for continuous learning and improvements in their productivity endeavors. These meetings will include an annual meeting for the entire membership and smaller-scale seminars on specific topics such as SME management, Green Productivity, and agriculture. "We are also planning to organize public seminars so that APO project participants can share their updated news, information, and advanced knowledge of productivity when they return to Korea," explained APO Liaison Officer for the ROK Jun-Ho Kim of the KPC, when asked about upcoming events of the association. He also expressed a desire to expand the network to the global level via close communication and information sharing with other APO alumni bodies. 