



APO NEWS

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New Year message from APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka

January is a month of hope and an opportunity to make new resolutions. It is a time to examine mistakes of the previous year and use them as stepping-stones to a better tomorrow. I hope that all *APO News* readers will take advantage of the new year to step up productivity endeavors resulting in a more fruitful, prosperous 2010. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your support and cooperation for the APO in 2009.

As reported in the *APO News*, the APO carried out numerous activities to meet the needs and expectations of member countries in 2009. The 50th Workshop Meeting (WSM) of Heads of National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) in the Philippines successfully completed its major tasks of finalizing the 2010 Program Plan and reviewing the proposed priority projects for 2011–2012. That was the second time the WSM conducted a review exercise for submission of a list of priority projects to the Governing Body Meeting (GBM), where APO Directors determine the total membership contributions for the next biennial budget. The smooth management of that critical task by the WSM confirmed the efficiency of the new budgeting system.

The continuous improvements in our major projects in 2009 deserve mention. With better methodology, quality of data, and deeper analysis, the 2009 edition of *The APO Productivity Databook* moved closer to becoming a prime reference for decision makers, both inside and outside the APO membership. The resounding success of the fifth Eco-Products International Fair held in the Philippines in March was significant given the serious economic downturn at the time. Additionally, information on food safety was widely disseminated thanks to expanded use of the APO's two-tiered approach, which combines a multicountry project with follow-up national programs in member countries. Four national workshops with a total of around 200 local participants followed a multicountry food safety management project in 2009.

2009 also witnessed action taken by the Secretariat to develop ideas suggested at the GBM and WSM. One was the pilot Center of Excellence (COE) project designating SPRING Singapore as the first COE in the area of business excellence. The two-year action plan for the COE pilot project got underway in 2009. Those initial efforts will show results this year. Another example was the introduction of the impact evaluation, a new evaluation measure, last year as a joint effort of the APO Secretariat, NPOs, and project participants and their supervisors. The findings and comments received from all involved will be essential for fine-tuning our projects.

The achievements of 2009 were only possible due to the efforts of those dedicated to increasing productivity. I would like to thank all who contributed to the APO's mission and request their continuing support. 🌀

New Year message from the *APO News*

The *APO News* would like to wish all our readers a happy, healthy, and productive 2010. We hope to deliver more informative, useful reports to assist productivity practitioners and stakeholders within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region in making a difference in the lives of all. Your suggestions and feedback are always welcome and appreciated.

