

People behind the scenes: Khanendra Kumar Dulichand Bhardwaj

The energy and environment czar of the APO—that's how K.D. Bhardwaj, or KD for short, is known at the Secretariat.

With extensive academic training and experience under his belt, K.D. has been responsible for developing and managing projects in these fields since he joined the Secretariat in 2005. K.D. is also referred to as the godfather of APO e-learning courses. He pioneered the implementation of e-learning methodology using the videoconferencing facilities of the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center, as well as the WebEx online meeting applications.

It didn't take long for his presence to stand out at the Secretariat. Among more senior colleagues, his frank views on issues about APO operations quickly began to gain attention. The outspoken trailblazer has constantly strived to surpass expectations, looking at an issue from various angles and exhausting all possibilities before reaching an appropriate solution. He's demanding of the support staff he works with, and a colleague commented that K.D. can be vocal with dissatisfaction, while at the same time generous with praise for work well done.

Some support staff, as well as new program officers who work with K.D. for the first time, remark that it can be hard to keep up with the fast talker and fast thinker. K.D.'s voice sometimes reverberates across the Secretariat as his thought

processes are verbalized to drive across his point.

A new program officer who recently supported K.D. on a project was impressed with his professionalism. "After a full day, K.D. would hold hours of discussions with experts, making minor changes according to participants' needs and going over how best to achieve program objectives. He's energetic, focused, and totally involved."



K.D. Bhardwaj at the Secretariat APO/Eriko Sugita

Some colleagues wonder where this energy and zest come from. Aside from his wife, K.D. seems to have a special lady in his life, one whose snapshot of a smiling face is carefully tucked away in his wallet. He says she is his source of inspiration, particularly for APO projects which have implications for the future generations of member countries. The beauty is K.D.'s precious seven-year-old daughter, Khushi (meaning "happiness" in Hindi).

"When we look back at the end of our careers, what really matters is what we've done to give to the world. I hope that I can be happy when some day I will look back, and in that regard, I am fortunate to work on energy and environment projects of the APO, in which we strive for sustainable development in the region." 