



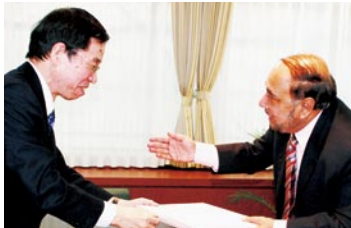
APO NEWS

Volume 40 Number 3
March 2010


p. 6, GPAC meeting, Japan



p. 6, Workshop, IR Iran



p. 7, BCBN, Bangladesh

CONTENTS

- 2....p-Leader—ROC
- 3.... Comment board
- 4....Productivity methodologies, tools, and techniques
- 5....Planning for public-sector productivity activities
- 6....The GPAC stands for Japanese corporate eco-leadership
- 6....Participatory irrigation management
- 7....Program calendar
- 7....Malaysia to host 52nd GBM
- 7....Bangladesh BCBN delegates visit Secretariat
- 7....APO/NPO update
- 8....Spreading the word: MPC e-newsletter
- 8....And the winners are
- 8....South American delegates visit Secretariat

Developing productivity practitioners in member countries

"Enhancing the capacity building of national productivity organizations (NPOs)" is an important task that the APO has pursued to promote the effective dissemination of the productivity movement in each member country. NPOs will play a key role in nurturing, strengthening, and spearheading this movement for the foreseeable future. The APO's continuous efforts in various forms and utilizing different methods have already produced tangible outcomes. One such program is the Development of NPOs (DON). Under the DON initiative, the APO conducted a need assessment survey, which served as the basis for in-country training programs focusing on developing a pool of productivity practitioners and training NPO technical staff.

"In 2008, three pilot in-country training courses were conducted in Pakistan, IR Iran, and India. All three courses were well received by the NPOs involved as they resulted in the capacity building of numerous NPO staff and other related stakeholders simultaneously. With the expression of interest by other NPOs, it was decided to continue this initiative," explained Secretariat Industry Acting Director Setsuko Miyakawa when giving the background to the new in-country program entitled Institutional Strengthening of NPOs through the Development of Productivity Practitioners. In 2009, six courses were held under this title in Fiji, Indonesia, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Lao PDR, and Thailand. Two courses dealt with both basic and advanced productivity concepts, principles, tools, and techniques, while three focused on the basic and one on the advanced.



Participants in Indonesia celebrating course completion

"The contents of the program were developed in close consultation with concerned NPOs and the resource speakers keeping in mind the specific needs of the NPO and related stakeholders," said Secretary Industry Program Officer K.D. Bhardwaj. All the training courses had durations of two weeks involving expert lectures/tutorials, case studies, group exercises, group presentations, and site visits. "On the final day, a comprehensive examination was conducted to assess the level of understanding of participants," added Bhardwaj.



Group exercise for teamwork improvement in Cambodia

The curricula of the first two projects held in Fiji, 25 May–6 June, and Indonesia, 22 June–4 July, were designed to integrate basic and advanced productivity and quality topics according to the needs of the two countries. In their project proposals, they highlighted the need to improve the knowledge and skills of trainers and consultants from the basic to new and emerging productivity tools and technologies to serve their industries. "The Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji (TPAF) was able to train a team of trainers in this program and the knowledge gained from the two-week program on productivity and quality and other emerging areas has already been incorporated into existing training programs," commented TPAF Director General Jone Usamate. *(Continued on page 5)*



Subsequently, three training programs were conducted in Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Lao PDR, 10–22 August, 24 October–5 November, and 9–21 November, respectively. These focused on basic training for young staff members of NPOs and other productivity practitioners from the private sector that those NPOs were working with. The NPOs of Cambodia and Lao PDR are relatively young themselves and face certain difficulties in meeting the productivity needs of their society and economy due to the lack of skilled, experienced manpower. “Thanks to the programs, the National Productivity Center of Cambodia (NPCC) now has more knowledgeable staff members who will be soon suitable for providing consulting and training services to SMEs and others,” commented National Productivity Center of Cambodia (NPCC) Director Bunna Yea. He emphasized the improved teamwork of NPCC staff as a major benefit of the program.

The training course held in Thailand was implemented in two phases reflecting the programs proposed by the Thailand Productivity Institute (FTPI). “The FTPI had redesigned an APO program outline to fulfill the needs for consultancy and training services according to the latest study of the national strategic plan for the productivity movement in Thailand carried out by the FTPI,” FTPI Executive Director Dr. Phanit Laosirirat mentioned in a letter accompanying the project

proposal. Accordingly, the first phase, 12–16 October, dealt with basic and intermediate topics, while the second phase, 30 November–2 December, was devoted to advanced ones. Both phases were successfully conducted. As a follow-up, the FTPI is planning to establish a community of practitioners so that updates on new productivity tools and concepts can be reported to the community directly.

Through these programs, 166 professionals from six countries were trained in 2009 and they are expected to apply their acquired skills and knowledge in advisory and training services for multiplier effects. Based on the positive feedback received from NPOs, this program is being continued in 2010. It will focus on the development of productivity practitioners through training in productivity and quality tools and techniques. However, it will be also expanded to cover specific subject areas of relevance to NPOs based on member country needs.

“It is our hope that more NPOs will utilize this program to upgrade the skills of their professional staff in current areas of work or help them acquire new skills to apply in the near future,” stated Miyakawa. The APO believes that this program will empower NPOs to lead the productivity movement in their countries and make greater contributions to the development of industry and society. 