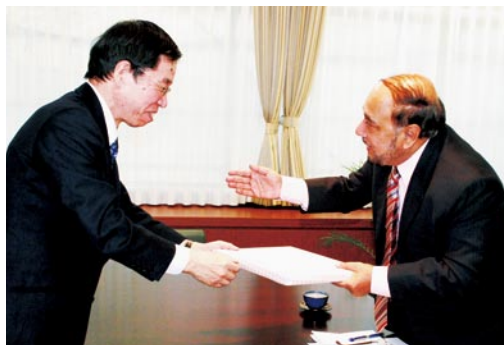


Bangladesh BCBN delegates visit Secretariat



Director Hussain (R) presenting a memento to Secretary-General Takenaka (L)

The mutual cooperation among national productivity organizations (NPOs) is a strength of the APO. NPOs share many similarities, although each has a unique structure and areas of expertise. This allows ample scope for NPOs to learn from each other under the APO umbrella for institutional strengthening. To nurture such beneficial interactions among NPOs, the APO sponsors the visits of high-level officials, policymakers, and opinion leaders from one member country to another under the Bilateral Cooperation Between NPOs (BCBN) scheme.

Bangladesh was a recent BCBN beneficiary. Three delegates visited the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) and Japan Productivity Center (JPC), 15–19 February, to collect ideas on productivity improvement plans. The DAP arranged meetings with senior managers and experts connected with the Philippine Quality Awards and others. The JPC gave presentations on the Japanese productivity movement and Japan Quality Awards. JPC President Tsuneaki Taniguchi welcomed the guests and shared views on NPOs' roles.

The delegates, led by APO Director for Bangladesh Dewan Zakir Hussain, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, visited the Secretariat on 18 February to meet Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka and receive departmental briefings. Secretary-General Takenaka explained recent changes in the Japanese government and topics for discussion at the Governing Body Meeting. In response to his request for the support of Bangladesh, Director Hussain replied: "Member countries have benefited from the APO's work. Therefore there is no doubt that all of us will give our support to the APO."