

## APO participates in Global Festa Japan 2010

**6** October was designated International Cooperation Day in Japan in 1987. That marks the joining of the Colombo Plan on that date in 1954 and the start of Japan's Official Development Assistance program. The government hopes that the official day will encourage Japanese to become involved in international cooperation activities. To celebrate, Global Festa Japan, originally called the International Cooperation Festival, has been held in Tokyo annually since 1990, and the APO has participated in it since 1998.

The Global Festa Japan 2010, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation, was held on 2 and 3 October in Hibiya Park in central Tokyo. With the theme MDGs (millennium development goals)—It's Our Promise, the festival was participated in by 287 international nongovernmental organizations, Japanese government agencies, international bodies, embassies, and private enterprises. The organizers offered participatory activities teaching the meaning of MDGs. Other features were talk shows, a charity marathon, and international food stalls that attracted crowds of families, students, and the public under clear autumn skies on both days.

The APO booth was located in the Orange Area behind the main stage. In ad-



*A young visitor to the APO's Global Festa booth absorbed in the map game. APO/Yoko Fujimoto*

dition to panels introducing APO activities, recent publications, including the *APO Productivity Databook 2010*, were displayed and copies distributed on request. APO leaflets and pamphlets on the Eco-products International Fair 2011 to be held in India next February were also available. The game of matching APO member countries' national flags with the location of their capitals proved popular among young and old, with long queues waiting to try it. 🇯🇵