



APO NEWS

Volume 40 Number 9

September 2010



p. 3, Meeting, ROC



p. 6, Study mission, ROC



p. 6, Training course, Malaysia

CONTENTS

- 2....p-Leader—Sri Lanka
- 3....Secretary-General visits the ROC
- 4....Productivity methodologies, tools, and techniques
- 5....e-Learning to increase energy efficiency
- 6....Agrobiotechnology at work in the field
- 6....Building a cadre of trainers and advisers for women
- 7....Program calendar
- 7....APO Productivity Photo Contest 2010
- 7....New APO publication
- 7....51st WSM to convene in Bangkok
- 7....APO/NPO update
- 8....Three keys in the CPC
- 8....Two new officers at the Secretariat

Reflections by outgoing Secretary-General

Six years ago, Shigeo Takenaka came to the APO after a distinguished career as a diplomat. He admitted that when he first assumed the position of Secretary-General, he, like many Japanese, had not really known much about the organization.

Since 1961, the APO has contributed to the socioeconomic development of Asia. The APO's multifaceted projects for improved productivity are mostly short-term training courses based on expert lectures, study tours to relevant organizations and government agencies, and focused discussions. "Back in the early days, most projects were held in Japan, to share the country's advanced practices. It is gratifying to see that other economies like the Republic of China, Republic of Korea, and Singapore have quickly caught up. Thailand, Malaysia, and India are also making impressive progress, and they have a lot to share."



APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka (C) speaks with Agriculture Department Director Joselito Bernardo (R) and Industry Department Program Officer Muhammad Idham at the Secretariat 25 August 2010. APO/Eriko Sugita

"When I first assumed the position of APO Secretary-General, the information shared among the six departments we had back then seemed to be rather limited. There were high partitions separating the departments, and unless someone walked over and asked other people questions, the staff did not know what their neighbors were doing. One of the first things I did here was an application of knowledge management within the Secretariat office." This involved a remodeling of the office. Takenaka took down high partitions and steel filing cabinets, previously higher than eye level, and replaced them with lower cabinets. The departmental directors' private office enclosures became history. Very soon, the entire office could be seen at a glance from every corner. With structural barriers out of the way, the Secretariat became more of an open space, encouraging communication and interaction. "There is a stronger sense of openness and unity, and communication has been much improved."

Takenaka has been deeply involved in the creation of the APO's most recent publications: *Practical KM Guide for SME Owners/Managers*, expected to be released around the same time this newsletter will be issued; and *Knowledge Management: Case Studies for Small and Medium Enterprises*. The *Practical KM Guide for SME Owners/Managers* is the third publication in a trilogy on knowledge management which began with *Knowledge Management: Facilitators' Guide* published in September 2009.

Another example of an APO development under the outgoing Secretary-General is its signature database project. This covers a broad range of data extending beyond the Asia-Pacific, including benchmark economies like the USA and EU. Takenaka hopes that more people will utilize the information, which is readily accessible on the APO website (www.apo-tokyo.org). "The APO is the only regional international organization that focuses on productivity. Without sufficient data to make accurate

(Continued on page 3)



Reflections by outgoing SG (Continued from page 1)

productivity comparisons, it is impossible to evaluate the effects of our members' various productivity efforts. Thus, in collaboration with Keio Economic Observatory of Keio University, Tokyo, we launched a research project to produce data that would be internationally comparable."

Among APO projects held to promote productivity in the region, a number of milestones have been achieved through the hard work of staff and member country NPOs. One of them is the Eco-products International Fair (EPIF). The EPIF 2010, the sixth in the series, was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in March 2010. Since the first EPIF was held in Malaysia in 2004, the fair has continued to expand in scale and become the largest international environmental fair to be held in Asia. More than 90,000 people visited the EPIF in Indonesia.

Takenaka has also been instrumental in the adoption of e-learning. To cope with increasing demand for human resources training, the APO has diversified its approaches to expand its reach to as many stakeholders as possible. e-Learning courses are now offered, which include videoconferencing, live sessions through web-based platforms, and self-learning.

Takenaka will be leaving the office of Secretary-General in mid-September. "Wherever I am, I will always be looking to see productivity flourish in our region and beyond." 