

Secretary-General visits the ROC

From 26 to 29 July, APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka visited Taipei, Republic of China (ROC), where he met government leaders and expressed gratitude for their continuous support and recent contribution to the APO's special program for Africa. Takenaka, together with APO Industry Department Director Setsuko Miyakawa, Research and Planning Department Program Officer Masaya Amau, China Productivity Center (CPC) Chairman Sheng-Hsiu Hsu, and Liaison Officer Eugene Lin, paid courtesy calls on Prime Minister Den-Yih Wu and Foreign Minister Timothy Chin-Tien Yang on 27 July. The group was first welcomed by Dr. Lyushuu Shen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Director General Lily L.W. Hsu, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before Prime Minister Wu's arrival.

As a founding member of the APO in 1961, the CPC had made important contributions to the country's economic development, Prime Minister Wu commented. In response, Takenaka cited the CPC's annual averages of 100 participants, 25 experts, and eight hosted projects as indicators of its active involvement in the APO. In thanking the prime minister for his government's support for the APO's special program for Africa, Takenaka said, "The contribution is evidence of the ROC's commitment to further the productivity movement."

After meeting Prime Minister Wu, Takenaka called on Foreign Minister Timothy Chin-Tien Yang. "The ROC recognizes the importance of the productivity movement," confirmed Minister Yang. "Despite financial difficulties, therefore, we would like to continue our full support for the APO." The Secretary-General gave details of the upcoming training course in Africa in November for Pan African Productivity Association members and four other countries. Takenaka expressed appreciation for the ROC's recognition of the value and vitality of the APO in the region and elsewhere.



APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka (L) shows ROC Premier Den-Yih Wu the APO Productivity Databook during a courtesy call on the latter at his office in Taipei 27 July 2010. Photo courtesy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China

On 28 July, the Secretary-General paid a courtesy call on Agriculture Minister Dr. Wu-Hsiung Chen. Minister Chen emphasized the importance of productivity in the agriculture sector, stressing that management methods, core agricultural technology, and ICT were crucial. After attending the opening ceremony of the APO Second Coordination Meeting of Research on Financing of Small and Medium Businesses on the 28th, Takenaka visited the Taiwan Design Center. His trip wrapped up with a tour of National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall on the 29th. 🌀