



ENHANCING COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH PEOPLE AND VALUE CREATION

APO 133 pp 2002 ISBN 92-833-2324-6

As 2001 was the 40th year of the APO's founding and the 20th anniversary of the productivity movement in Singapore, the APO and the Singapore Productivity and Standards Board (PSB; now SPRING Singapore) teamed up to organize the International Productivity Conference (IPC) 2001 as a joint commemorative celebration. It was

held in Singapore, 2-4 October, with the theme "Productivity in the New Millennium—Enhancing Competitiveness through People and Value Creation."

This publication is a compendium of all the presentations made at the conference and the addresses delivered at the inaugural and the closing sessions, including those by Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Singapore's Minister for Health and Second Minister for Finance; Mr. Lim Boon Heng, concurrently APO Chairman and PSB Chairman; and APO Secretary-General Takashi Tajima. Among the 23 distinguished speakers at the IPC who challenged the 300 delegates to make a difference in their work were: Dr. Don Edward Beck, National Values Center, Inc., USA; Mr. Shinji Fukukawa, Dentsu Institute for Human Studies, Japan; Ms Debra Amidon, Entovation International Ltd., USA; Mr. William K. Shireman, Global Futures, USA; Mr. Paul Hawken, Groxis, Inc., USA; and Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Grameen Bank, Bangladesh.

Apart from the five plenary session papers, the rest were categorized under the three sub-themes of Competitiveness, People, and Value Creation. Among the varied topics covered by the speakers were: Value creation in changing times; Breakthrough: key factors for competitiveness; The innovation highway: 7Cs of knowledge leadership; Partnership with communities for poverty reduction; Half the population in the world cannot contribute their productivity; Creating a world-class knowledge organization; Farmers' productivity and value-chain improvement in the food industry; Biomedical sciences in the 21st century; and Natural capitalism: creating the next Industrial Revolution.



SMEs IN COMPETITIVE MARKETS

APO 378 pp July 2002 ISBN 92-833-2327-0

Rapid changes in the economic environment over the last two decades are having a significant impact on the way SMEs conduct business. Globalization, the spread of free trade, and the phasing out of tariff barriers are causing SMEs to lose their once-protected domestic markets. They now have to compete against the best in the world. At the same time, these changes are opening up tremendous business and market opportunities for them. For example, the liberal-

ization of financial markets has made attractive low-cost funding options available. Moreover, information technology and e-commerce are leveling the playing field for SMEs as they strive to compete against the larger corporations. It is therefore important for SME entrepreneurs to identify winning strategies for their particular business. It is also the government's responsibility to strengthen their capabilities so that they can survive and prosper in the long run.

In light of this, the APO conducted a regional survey of SMEs to determine the types of public-support schemes and corporate strategies that are most effective in enabling them to improve their productivity and competitiveness in the changing business environment. Fourteen APO member countries took part in the survey. This publication is a compilation of the survey reports prepared by the national experts of the participating countries. They offer insights and information that are useful to all those who are involved in the development and strengthening of SMEs.

For order and inquiry on APO publications and videos, please contact the Information and Public Relations Department, Asian Productivity Organization, Hirakawa-cho Dai-ichi Seimei Bldg. 2F, 1-2-10 Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0093, Japan. Phone number: (81-3) 5226-3927, Fax: (81-3) 5226-3957, E-mail: ipr@apo-tokyo.org