



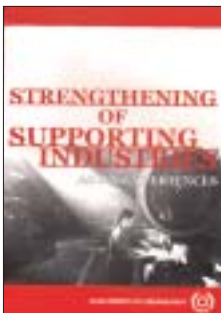
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT A Key for Corporate Competitiveness

APO 118 pp. January 2002

Over the past years, the main source of profits for most major corporations has shifted from capital to invisible assets such as patents, know-how, ideas, and brand names, in other words, their workers' capabilities. Among the implications of this for business corporations are: 1) they have to convert themselves into knowledge centers capable

of carving out new market niches through the creation of innovative products and services, and 2) they have to hone their ability to learn, transfer the learning throughout the organization, and act on the learning.

To help business corporations in its member countries be better acquainted with this paradigm shift, the APO chose "Knowledge Management: A Key for Corporate Competitiveness" as the theme of its 2001 Top Management Forum in Kyoto, Japan. This publication is a compilation of the nine resource papers presented at the forum, most of which were by top executives of leading Japanese corporations. They show the various ways top management could introduce knowledge management as an effective tool for corporate innovation for attaining world-class standards in productivity and competitiveness.



STRENGTHENING OF SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES Asian Experiences

APO 165 pp. January 2002

The business linkage between the largely foreign-owned big manufacturing plants and the local supporting industries has been recognized as an effective mechanism for the transfer of technology as well as an important contributor to the development and growth of small and medium enterprises. However, foreign business investors often experience the failure of local supporting firms to supply parts and services that meet their requirements. This has led many to import components from their own countries or elsewhere. This undermines the growth of the local supporting industries. There is, therefore, a great need to strengthen their capabilities to produce high-quality, reliable products and services, not only for the domestic market but also for export.

Recognizing this need, the APO in November 2000 organized a study meeting in Taipei, Republic of China, on the strengthening of supporting industry. The meeting highlights the experiences of the newly industrialized economies in the APO membership. This publication is a report on the proceedings of the meeting. It includes a report on the meeting and its findings, the six resource papers that were presented, and 11 country papers prepared by the participants. It is a useful reference text for those with responsibility for the development and growth of supporting industries.

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