

## The passing of a productivity statesman

It was with great sadness that we received news of the demise of Mr. Jinnosuke Miyai, former President of the Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development (JPC-SED). He died of acute renal failure on 15 May 2002 at the age of 80.

Mr. Miyai became President of the then Japan Productivity Center in 1985. After his retirement in 1997, he continued to serve the organization as its Senior Adviser. Mr. Miyai was very much respected by his peers and counterparts in other NPOs of APO member countries. Mr. Lee Suan Hiang, Chief Executive of SPRING Singapore, hailed him as a productivity statesman and spokesman who was well recognized in Europe, the United States, and the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Miyai, said Mr. Lee, was respected for “his succinct and candid observations on how the productivity movement should be developed. He was a constant source of inspiration and motivation as he never failed to encourage us in our productivity journey.”

The *APO News* had an interview with Mr. Miyai in early 1998. When



*Mr. Jinnosuke Miyai*

asked to enumerate some of his accomplishments as President of the JPC-SED, Mr. Miyai replied that the then Chairman of the JPC-SED, the late Mr. Masao Kamei, gave him credit for three things: 1) the reconstitution of the JPC into the JPC-SED to introduce a new productivity paradigm in Japan which, among other things, would address social systems and their effectiveness; 2) the more active involvement of the JPC-SED in international productivity promotion and cooperation, as seen in the setting up of the International Productivity Service in Washington, D.C., USA; and 3) the establish-

ment of the International Productivity Center in Shonan Village, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. To these three, he added a fourth of his own, which was to have regained the confidence of the government, industries, labor unions, and academia in the JPC-SED.

In 1995, the APO conferred on Mr. Miyai the APO Regional Award in recognition of his untiring efforts in institution building for improving productivity in the region and for propagating the productivity concept and the techniques for its improvement.