

APO supports International Cooperation Festival

The annual International Cooperation Festival in Tokyo was held on 5–6 October this year. The APO has been taking part since 1998. Each participating organization was given a booth to showcase its services through display of posters and publications, screening of multimedia programs, and the distribution of promotional materials and mementoes. The APO booth featured a lucky draw as well where winners had a choice of handicraft items from member countries.

This year's festival theme was "Come to Our Happy Earth Village" and close to 200 organizations took part. They comprised national aid agencies of Japan, international organizations, special interest groups, and NGOs extolling issues like health care, education, income generation, urban and rural development, environmental protection, human rights, fair trade, and world peace. Add to all this a non-stop musical program and 30 stalls enticing visitors with mouth-watering ethnic food and beverages from all over the world and the carnival atmosphere was unmistakable. An estimated 80,000 people visited the two-day event, and family groups were prominent among them. All in all, it was a colorful event for a most worthy cause.