



Productivity partners confer in Tokyo

In the first three days of April, the APO Secretariat was the scene of a happy “family” reunion when the APO liaison officers of member countries or their representatives met with their counterparts in the Secretariat for a time of consultation and consolidation on the nitty-gritty issues of project preparation and implementation. Fourteen liaison officers attended, three sent their representatives, and two could not come. In addition, there were four observers. By all accounts, it was a rare event for the liaison officers as they seldom have the opportunity to meet each other, not to mention their counterparts in the APO Secretariat as well. The last time this happened was way back in 1994. As a reflection of the importance of the meeting to the Secretariat, all its directors and officers put aside their other work to engage fully with the liaison officers in presentations, consultations, and, in some instances, exhortations. They also took advantage of the occasion to reciprocate the warm hospitality accorded to them whenever they visit member countries to oversee the implementation of APO projects.



Liaison officers' meeting in progress

APO Secretary-General Takashi Tajima set the tone for the meeting when, in welcoming the liaison officers, he shared the following three work principles he set for Secretariat staff members: 1) constant communication, consultation, and cooperation; 2) build teamwork; and 3) work hard and enjoy life as well. The meeting took his advice to heart and followed it almost to perfection over the next three days.

The meeting program featured the following: 1) reports by the liaison officers on the issues and concerns they were faced with in implementing APO projects and sourcing candidates for those hosted by other member countries; 2) deliberations on issues relating to the identification, planning, preparation, and implementation of APO projects, including post-implementation activities and financial concerns; 3) briefings by each of the functional departments on their respective duties and responsibilities, and the areas where the assistance and cooperation of the liaison officers were most needed; and 4) time set aside for the liaison officers to do follow-up work on a more individual basis with any of the Secretariat departments, and for the latter to take up outstanding matters with them.

Deliberations during the meeting were frank, cordial, and earnest, with occasional friendly and witty banter to add humor to an otherwise serious business. At the close of the meeting, there was a greater understanding and appreciation of each other's position, constraints, difficulties, and the efforts each was making to implement APO projects as efficiently and effectively as possible. All parties involved resolved to stay in close and constant communication with each other, to follow up on the issues discussed, and to extend their best support and cooperation to one another, not just in their project implementation but in their productivity enhancement efforts as well.

(Continued on page 6)

Volume 33 Number 4
April 2003

“Focus on both people and the results. Without people a leader cannot get results. Without results you will get nowhere.”

Jayakar Rangarajan

INSIDE

- 2....p-Watch—Australia
- 3....The Secretary-General's schedule
- 4....New APO publications
- 4....Common Sense Talk
- 5.... Knowledge-based community development
- 5....Fiji to host APO Governing Body Meeting
- 6....APO/NPO update
- 7....p-Experts
- 7....Program calendar
- 8.... NPO-watch—Vietnam

Published by
Asian Productivity Organization
Hirakawa-cho Dai-ichi Seimei Bldg. 2F
1-2-10 Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-0093, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 5226-3920
Fax: (81-3) 5226-3950
E-mail: apo@apo-tokyo.org
Web site: www.apo-tokyo.org



Printed on Recycled Paper

Productivity partners.... *(Continued from page 1)*

On the evening of the first day, the liaison officers and other guests were taken to view the cherry blossoms, a first for a quite a few, followed by dinner with all the APO staff. The Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development hosted a dinner on the second day. On the final day, the APO Secretariat staff members all chipped in to host a farewell lunch for the visitors.

At the close of the meeting, all involved agreed that it had been most useful in enabling smoother and more effective implementation of APO projects in member countries, and that it should be held more frequently, preferably at intervals of two to three years. 