

## Introducing the APO Secretariat (II)

**W**e first featured this new six-part series on “Introducing the APO Secretariat” in the June issue. Each part will report on the work of one department. We started with the Administration and Finance Department, and in this issue, our focus is on the Research and Planning (R&P) Department.

### *Research and Planning Department*

The R&P Department is responsible for the overall coordination in planning the APO’s future programs of action. This is undertaken in close consultation with the national productivity organizations (NPOs) of member countries. The plans are submitted to the APO Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs for detailed examination and subsequently to the Governing Body for approval.

In addition, the R&P Department has three sets of activities. One is to develop and strengthen NPOs, which is a basic mission of the APO. The other is to organize large-scale forums and meetings for top officials in government, industry, trade unions, and NPOs to share and exchange views and experiences on themes of specific interest. This type of activity is important to reinforce to member countries that the APO continues to seek a better quality of life in the region through the productivity movement. The final type of activity is undertaking projects that anticipate the needs and requirements of member countries by offering



*Ohnishi (seated); standing (L-R) Mochtan, Eshita, Higashiguchi, Lee, and Ohara*

advice and guidance to policy makers on coping with change, such as the emergence of the knowledge society.

Heading the R&P Department is Yoshikuni Ohnishi, who is among the longest-serving staff in the Secretariat. Working with him are three officers, Lee Kia Yoke, Dr. A.K.P. Mochtan, and Naoto Yamamoto (who is also assisting the Administration and Finance Department), and three general support staff: Fumiyo Higashiguchi, Mitsuko Eshita, and Akiko Ohara. 