



# A·P·O news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION


## APO offers support in Sri Lanka's reconstruction

On 9–10 June this year, Japan hosted the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka to provide the international community with an opportunity to demonstrate its strong and unified commitment to the reconstruction and development of Sri Lanka and to encourage the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to redouble their efforts to make further progress to bring peace to the north and east of the country. The conference was attended by representatives from 51 countries and 22 international organizations, including the APO. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe both spoke at the conference, which was co-chaired by Japan, Norway, the USA, and the European Union (Presidency and Commission). A total in excess of US\$4.5 billion in assistance was pledged to Sri Lanka over the four-year period 2003–2006. In addition, some countries and international organizations have offered technical support. Prime Minister Koizumi said, "Implementation of this assistance by the international community will be closely linked to steady progress in the peace process made by both parties through their own efforts."



(From L-R) Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, Mr. Takashi Tajima, and Mr. N.G. Kularatne

**P** rime Minister Wickremesinghe said that his government has three critical tasks: to lay a foundation for a lasting peace so that Sri Lanka will no longer be a divided nation filled with ethnic hatred and bitterness; to rebuild the economy so that the country can compete and prosper in the newly globalized world; and to resolve the problems of a deeply politically divided society. The Prime Minister also announced the formation of a new organization to implement foreign-funded projects efficiently and effectively, and with transparency and accountability.

The APO was represented at the conference by Secretary-General Takashi Tajima, N.G. Kularatne, Director (Administration and Finance), and Ken Inoue, Director (Industry). In his statement to the conference, Secretary-General Tajima said that the APO could play a meaningful role in the reconstruction of Sri Lanka within the framework of the conference. In particular, it could make direct contributions to enhancing productivity in all the economic sectors of the country to help achieve the Sri Lankan Government's "Regaining Sri Lanka" initiative, a comprehensive program to develop the country on a balanced and equitable basis. He identified five areas for special assistance to Sri Lanka and invited other governments and organizations to join the APO in the effort: 1) Strengthening small and medium enterprises; 2) Introducing information technology and knowledge management; 3) Promoting Green Productivity and integrated community development; 4) Strengthening the national productivity organization; and 5) Reviving the agriculture and fishery sectors. 

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**"Words are words,  
explanations are explanations,  
promises are promises—but only performance is reality."**

**Harold Geneen**

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