

## — Management of research and development —

**T**he beginning of the 21st century is characterized by economic globalization, trade liberalization, and rapid advances in information and communications technology. These developments have led to intense competition for markets. R&D capability is considered essential if a business is to remain viable. This is leading many corporations to invest in R&D, especially to meet changing customer needs and expectations. To help throw further light on this new requirement, the APO organized a seminar on “Research and Development Management” in the Republic of Korea, 1–4 April 2003. It was attended by 17 participants from 12 member countries. Experts from the Republic of China, India, and the host country conducted the program, which was implemented by the Korea Productivity Center.

The seminar program covered the following issues: R&D evolution from imitation to innovation; Lessons from Korea; R&D management: Imperatives at national and corporate levels; R&D management and economic growth: Government and corporate policies; Role of the Science and Technology Information Center in the promotion of tripartite collaboration in the Republic of China; Commercialization of new technologies; and Issues of intellectual property rights and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Participants visited the Songdo Techno-Park and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology as part of their field studies. They also suggested the following:

1. It is necessary to have an R&D policy that balances basic and applied research.



*Participants visiting Korea Institute of Science and Technology*

2. In a situation of scarce resources, public–private sector partnership in R&D should be encouraged and/or strengthened.
3. Healthy linkages among industry–institutions–academia to foster applied R&D should be encouraged, particularly for product development in fast-changing markets.
4. Governments should strengthen their role as R&D facilitators by establishing technology incubation centers, techno-parks, etc. and promoting R&D investment by the private sector by creating a favorable legal and fiscal environment. 