

## Indonesia holds National Roundtable Conference on Productivity

*In the second half of this year, the Directorate of Productivity Development in Indonesia's Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, which has also been designated as the NPO of the country, in collaboration with the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, initiated two preparatory meetings to draw up a series of plans for revitalizing the national productivity movement. It culminated in the National Roundtable Conference on Productivity (NRTCP) held in Jakarta, 16–17 September 2003.*

The preparatory meetings, held in July and August, drafted three documents on the following matters for final endorsement at the NRTCP: 1) productivity declaration; 2) the set-up of a national productivity institution; and 3) national productivity promotion strategy. These two meetings also featured panel discussions on “Economic policy and productivity as solutions to crisis” and “Stakeholders’ roles in national productivity movement,” respectively.

All the three meetings had tripartite representation with delegates from governmental ministries and agencies, the business community, employer federations, trade unions, academia, and the provinces. The latter included Governors and representatives of Regional Development Planning Offices and Regional Productivity Boards. Altogether, about 300 people attended the meetings.

APO Secretary-General Takashi Tajima attended the NRTCP as guest of honor and was one of the speakers at the plenary session. Sharing the platform with him were Prof. Emil Salim, former cabinet Minister and noted Indonesian economist, and Mr. Arturo Tolentino from the International Labour Organization. Prof. Dorodjatun Kuntjoro-Jakti, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, gave the keynote address.

At the NRTCP, delegates adopted the Declaration on Enhancing National Productivity, in which they undertake to:

1. Launch a comprehensive, consistent, and sustained productivity drive to enhance national productivity;
2. Adopt productivity as the basic strategy and culture in all activities, roles, and functions; and
3. Establish a productivity institution that is both national and regional in scope to coordinate, synergize, and give focus to the productivity movement.



*Secretary-General Tajima being greeted by President Soekarnoputri. Minister Kuntjoro-Jakti looks on*

The longer-term objectives of the NRTCP are to enhance national competitiveness, accelerate economic growth, expand employment opportunities, and improve the people's quality of life.

On 17 September, the NRTCP delegates visited the presidential palace to present the declaration to Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri. Minister for Manpower and Transmigration Jacob Nuwa Wea made the presentation on behalf of the delegates. In her address to the delegates, President Soekarnoputri lauded the efforts made to launch a concerted productivity drive in the country. She commented that the productivity of the country is low and it is matter of concern not only to the Manpower Ministry. Productivity, she stressed, is a matter of attitude and one starting point for increasing productivity is to build and maintain discipline. She called on the delegates to take concrete actions and achieve practical results to help solve the country's huge problems. While appreciating the intention of the delegates in recommending the establishment of a new productivity institution, she cautioned against rushing into it as there are already too many in the country. She said time should be given to examining thoroughly the best possible options to avoid duplication of mission and efforts among institutions. 