

— Introducing the APO Secretariat (V) —

The APO Secretariat has six functional departments. Over the last eight months, we have introduced four: Administration and Finance, Research and Planning, Industry, and Agriculture. Our focus in this issue is on the Environment Department.

Environment Department

This is the department most recently established, in 1994. In 1996, it launched the Green Productivity (GP) Program with a GP world conference in Manila, the Philippines, as a response to the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, popularly referred to as the Rio Earth Summit. GP integrates productivity improvement with environmental protection and is applicable to industries, farms, and communities. It has five core areas: GP Promotion Mission; GP Demonstration Program; GP Dissemination Assistance; Technical Information and Advisory Service; and International Cooperation. GP has had a substantial impact on member countries. Most have set up their own GP programs.

Some key current activities of the department are: 1) working with major private-sector corporations in member countries, starting with Japan, to promote the establishment of green supply chains and green procurement as a means for sustainable development as well as enhancing their competitive advantage in the global market; 2) promoting energy, water, and solid waste management; and 3) undertaking follow-up work on the Johannesburg WSSD partnership initiatives by joining with other organizations to promote programs



(L-R) Goto, Ohtome, Koh, Parasnis, and Watanabe. In the inset is Miyakawa

like GP-Integrated Community Development and SIGN³-Asia, a sustainable investment initiative.

The Head of the Environment Department is Director Augustine Koh. His team members include two officers—Setsuko Miyakawa and Mandar Parasnis—and three general staff—Takiko Ohtome, Noriko Goto, and Sayuri Watanabe. 🌀