

# Pakistan to have national productivity policy and award

*At the third governing body meeting of the National Productivity Organisation (NPO) of Pakistan held in Islamabad, 4 November 2003, Minister for Industries and Production Liaquat Ali Jatoi announced that Pakistan would have its own President Productivity Award (PPA) and national productivity policy. In his statement as the chairman of the meeting, he commented that for industries and businesses in Pakistan to be competitive in the global market, it is imperative that they improve quality, reduce wastage, and adopt international best practices. The establishment of the PPA was to reinforce this essential message and to show the way to achieve competitiveness. The Minister stressed that the productivity journey is long and arduous and the PPA is to serve as a road map.*

**T**he PPA will be conferred annually on enterprises with outstanding quality and productivity performances in five categories: manufacturing, service, small business, health care, and education. It provides an integrated, value-oriented framework for delivering ever-improving value to customers and maximizing the overall effectiveness and productivity of participating organizations. For this purpose, the award has incorporated 11 core values embodied in seven categories: Leadership; Information and analysis; Strategic planning; Human resources development and management; Process management; Business results; and Customer focus and satisfaction. The NPO Pakistan will serve as both the administrator and facilitator of the PPA.

*APO News* spoke to Hasan Haider, Head of the Training Division, NPO Pakistan, about the PPA when he was in Tokyo recently to attend an APO seminar. He said that the NPO Pakistan has drawn up the details of the PPA and they will be submitted to external experts for advice and comments before finalization. The scheme is expected to be launched in June this year with a series of training programs for companies and organizations interested in being considered for the award.

On the establishment of a national productivity policy, the Minister announced the formation of a taskforce under the NPO Pakistan to develop a platform that will set in motion a



*Minister Jatoi (third from left) chairing the NPO meeting*

stakeholder-driven national effort to achieve greater and faster socio-economic development through higher productivity and better quality. Since the establishment of the taskforce, said Haider, the NPO Pakistan has been in consultation with various stakeholders, including chambers of commerce and public-sector organizations, to solicit their input and support for the formulation of the productivity policy. In a concept paper prepared by the NPO Pakistan, the national productivity policy will evolve around the following pillars: Appropriate technology; Skill development; Better management; Knowledge-based practices; R&D activities; Mindset change; and Institutional support. The paper also enumerated a number of ways in which productivity can be improved, including: 1) a better mix of inputs; 2) improved technology; 3) upgraded skills; 4) better management; and 5) conducive working environment. 