

NPO heads to confer in Sri Lanka

The annual APO Workshop Meeting of Heads of National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) for 2004 will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10–12 February. This 44th meeting, to be hosted by the National Productivity Secretariat of Sri Lanka, will be attended by more than 60 delegates. Apart from NPO Heads, the delegates will comprise agriculture representatives of APO member countries, observers from other countries and international organizations with whom the APO has collaborative relationships, and APO Secretariat staff members led by the Secretary-General. The chief guest at the opening session will be the Sri Lankan Minister for Employment and Labour Mahinda Samarasinghe. The delegates will hear a statement from APO Secretary-General Takashi Tajima and a special presentation on a topic of current interest by an eminent local speaker.

During the workshop, the delegates will evaluate the APO projects implemented in 2003, undertake strategic planning, and formulate the detailed programs for the next two years. There will also be mutual sharing of views and experiences on productivity promotion and enhancement. For strategic planning, delegates representing the industry and service sectors and those from the agriculture sector will meet in separate concurrent sessions to discuss current concerns and challenges facing the NPOs and their role in improving agricultural productivity, review thrust areas, and plan the APO programs and activities for 2005 and 2006. Their conclusions and proposals will be presented for further discussion and adoption at a joint session. A report of the overall proceedings will be submitted to the APO Governing Body for approval at its annual meeting in June.