

— APO supports green purchasing confab —

On 11–13 December 2003, the Eco-Products 2003 Exhibition was held in Tokyo, Japan. In conjunction with this event, an International Forum on Green Purchasing and Sustainable Consumption was organized to propagate the Japanese experience in promoting green purchasing and to seek opportunities for expanding green purchasing on a worldwide basis. Among the consortium of nine organizers were the Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development (JPC-SED), Green Purchasing Network (GPN), and Japan Environment Management Association for Industry. The APO was one of the supporting organizations, which also included the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry and Ministry of the Environment.

The forum featured three separate conferences, including the International Workshop on Green Purchasing where APO Secretary-General Takashi Tajima gave the opening remarks. He expressed the hope that “the establishment of green purchasing practices would lead to the formation of green supply chains in Asia, which would increase the competitiveness of the Asia-Pacific region... and contribute to global sustainable development.” One of the speakers was Kazunori Kitagawa, Head of the JPC-SED Eco-Management Center. He reported on the current situation of green purchasing in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore based on the findings of research conducted by



Mr. Tajima speaking at the GP workshop

the APO with the cooperation of the JPC-SED and GPN. A similar study was also conducted in the Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand. These studies were undertaken under the auspices of the APO Green Productivity Program. 