



### DIGITAL DIVIDE IN ASIA

APO 218 pp. December 2003 ISBN: 92-833-2351-3

The IT Charter adopted at the Summit Meeting of Heads of Nations held in Japan in 2000 paid particular attention to the growing gap between countries that have successfully coped with the digital economy and those that have not. Since then, various measures have been introduced to rectify this digital divide. Unfortunately, this matter is not a simple phenomenon as it is the result of complex interactions among social, economic, and political factors, most of which are country specific.

In 2001, the APO conducted a survey in six member countries—India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam—to determine the nature and magnitude of the prevailing digital divide in the region with the objective of evolving policy suggestions and measures to bridge the gap. Since the digital divide is so complex, a simplified model was used in the survey based on the proposition that it is caused by inadequate social infrastructure development, like IT/telecommunications and education infrastructure, and reflected in: 1) inequality of income distribution; 2) gaps in the scale, growth, and productivity of the industrial sector; and 3) shortfalls in national economic growth and productivity.

This publication provides an integrated summary of the survey findings and recommendations and the national reports of the participating countries.



### GREEN PRODUCTIVITY TRAINING MANUAL

APO 255 pp. October 2003 ISBN: 92-833-2350-5

The APO launched the Green Productivity (GP) Program in 1996 to provide a practical system that integrates environmental protection with productivity improvement at the firm, farm, and community levels. Since then, the program has been successfully implemented in almost all member countries through a three-pronged strategy of promotion missions, demonstration projects, and information dissemination. To operationalize GP, the APO has developed a six-step, 13-task methodology following Deming's plan-do-check-act cycle. This has been successfully applied in various demonstration projects and proven to be very effective and productive. The APO has recently published this methodology under the title *Green Productivity Training Manual*. It comprises five modules: Sustainable Development and Green Productivity; Concept of Green Productivity; Green Productivity Methodology; Tools for Green Productivity; and Techniques for Green Productivity. The appendix provides Green Productivity resources. The training manual is also available in CD format, a copy of which is included as part of the publication, and as an e-book on the GP homepage on the APO Web site at: [www.apo-tokyo.org/gp.new/Febooklist.htm](http://www.apo-tokyo.org/gp.new/Febooklist.htm).

Writing in the Foreword, APO Secretary-General Takashi Tajima expressed the hope that by publishing this manual, "NPOs in member countries as well as other national and international agencies can learn more about GP and possibly adopt GP principles and methodology in their training and capacity-building activities."

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