

APO Governing Body to meet in Indonesia

Indonesia will host the 46th Session of the APO Governing Body when it convenes in Yogyakarta, 8–10 June 2004. The Governing Body is the supreme organ of the APO. It comprises one Director from each member country designated by their respective governments. The Governing Body meets once a year to receive the Secretary-General's annual report and the auditor's financial report; decide on APO policies, strategies, directions, and membership; approve the rolling two-year plan and annual programs; lay down guidelines for the ensuing fiscal year's program; and approve the budget and the financial guidelines.

Each year, it appoints from among its members a Chairman and two Vice Chairmen who, together with the Secretary-General, will decide on pressing matters when the Governing Body is not in session. In the past, these appointments usually went to the longest-serving Directors. To give each member country a chance to serve in these capacities, this practice was revamped in 2003 and they are now assigned on rotational basis by country in alphabetical order. Under this new system, in the forthcoming meeting, the APO Director for the Republic of China will assume the role of APO Chairman and the Directors for Fiji and India will be appointed Vice Chairmen.

Coordinating Minister for Economy Prof. Dorodjatun Kuntjoro-Jakti will officiate at the opening session and deliver the inaugural address. Other speakers will include the APO Director for Indonesia Kirnadi and Yogyakarta Governor Sultan Hamengkubuwono X. APO Secretary-General Takashi Tajima will introduce the delegates. A highlight of the meeting will be the special presentation by Minister for Agriculture Prof. Bungaran Saragih. The Governing Body will also appoint a new Secretary-General as Mr. Tajima will complete his second and final term in September this year.

Apart from the APO Directors and their advisers, observers from international organizations and governmental agencies with which the APO has close collaborative relationships and APO Secretariat staff members will attend. About 60 people are expected at the meeting.