

## APO and UNV sign MOU

APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Executive Coordinator Ad de Raad signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize cooperation between the two organizations. The signing ceremony was held at the APO Secretariat in Tokyo, 19 October 2004.

The UNV is the volunteer arm of the UN system. It promotes volunteerism for development, including through the mobilization of volunteers. Each year it dispatches more than 5,600 qualified and experienced volunteers of over 160 nationalities to serve in some 140 developing countries, including most APO member countries, in the fields of development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and peace-keeping operations.

The MOU enables the APO to identify qualified experts, such as management advisers for SMEs, environment specialists, and rural development experts from all over the world through the UNV to serve in APO member countries. It will expand and enhance its Technical Expert Services Program. The UNV will administer the dispatch of the experts under the



*(L-R). N.G. Kularatne, Administration and Finance Director, APO Secretariat, Takenaka, de Raad, and UNV Programme and Trust Fund Manager for Japan Chika Kitajima at the signing ceremony*

sponsorship of the APO. As the UN volunteers expect and receive only a modest living allowance for their services, this MOU will enable the APO to dispatch more experts and/or for a longer period to its member countries.