

— APO-World Bank GDLN collaboration —

In June 2000, the World Bank launched its Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) with the objective of improving the effectiveness of development efforts by enhancing the capacity of practitioners. The GDLN makes use of IT and videoconferencing methodologies to support knowledge sharing and distance learning. There are some 70 centers worldwide, including 10 in APO member countries. Since the Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC) was established in June this year, the APO has been working closely with the TDLC to forge a long-term partnership for distance learning programs for the socioeconomic development of the Asia-Pacific region. Two videoconferencing sessions were held in September using GDLN facilities. One was on 20 September when the GDLN's centers in Manila, Tokyo, and Ulaanbaatar were connected for live presentations delivered from Manila and Tokyo to a group of 23 participants from 13 APO member countries attending a seminar on "Participatory Microcredit for Integrated Community Development" held in Ulaanbaatar, 20–25 September.

The next day, 21 September, a live videoconferencing session was held between the TDLC and the Thailand Development Learning Center in Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. This was part of the APO study mission on the Media and Productivity held in Thailand and Vietnam (*see front page for full story*). The session was officiated by APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka, World Bank Vice-President and Special Representative to Japan Yukio Yoshimura, TDLC Partnership and Programs Manager Ryu Fukui, and Chulalongkorn University Vice President Dr. Kamales Santivejkul. Takenaka thanked the World Bank for allowing the APO the use of its state-of-the-art facilities and expressed the hope for more collaboration between the two



(L-R) Fukui, Yoshimura, Takenaka, Ohnishi, and Mukesh Bhattarai, APO Secretariat

bodies in the future. Yoshimura expressed appreciation for the APO's interest in working with the World Bank GDLN to deliver high-quality distance learning programs to contribute to the socioeconomic development of Asia and the Pacific. Fukui said that the GDLN is aimed at supporting capacity building programs relevant to sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries and welcomed the opportunity to work with the APO in achieving these goals. Dr. Kamales, who spoke on behalf of the Thailand DLC, expressed the hope that the cooperation between the APO and the World Bank GDLN would result in the achievement of mutual goals and greater collaboration in the future. ☺