

South African NPI representatives visit APO Secretariat

Dr. Yvonne Dladla, Executive Director of South Africa's National Productivity Institute (NPI), and colleague Iggy Sathekge, who both attended the 47th GBM as observers, visited the APO Secretariat on 17 June. They met Secretary-General Takenaka, gave a presentation to staff members, and discussed avenues of possible cooperation between the NPI and APO with Secretariat Directors. The presentation, entitled Building a Nation at Work, outlined the tasks that the NPI must undertake to "instill a culture of productive behavior" in South Africa and highlighted successes already achieved. Included in those successes was incorporation of productivity concepts in the educational curriculum. The NPI has approximately 100 staff in three South African cities to serve the tripartite social partners of labor, business, and government.



(L-R) Dladla and Sathekge

In addition to its 30-year history as the national productivity body, the NPI serves as the Secretariat of the Pan-African Productivity Association (PAPA). Established some 10 years ago, PAPA was revitalized in 2002 after resolving initial teething problems. Currently, along with the NPI, PAPA has four other "active" members (Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius, and the Seychelles) and four "participating" members (Nigeria, Tanzania, Swaziland, and Lesotho) that are now nurturing their productivity movements. PAPA has established cooperative ties with the

ILO, Commonwealth nations, and others. Potential areas identified for future APO–PAPA–NPI cooperation were capacity building, Green Productivity, and the One Village, One Product movement. However, as Dr. Dladla noted, the NPI feels that it is already cooperating with the APO to some extent, since its staff regularly access the APO Web site. In addition, the NPI is the national distributor of APO publications in South Africa.