

Annual report of the Secretary-General

Each year at the Governing Body Meeting, the APO Secretary-General presents his annual report. It usually provides a preview of future activities and policy directives that are under consideration and at the same time captures the work done in the past year.

At the outset of the report, Secretary-General Takenaka extended his heartiest congratulations to the JPC-SED on its 50th anniversary. He mentioned that the JPC-SED had been in the forefront of the productivity movement in Asia and the Pacific since the founding of the APO in 1961 and he hoped that its role as a pacesetter and standard bearer would continue to be important in the years ahead. Takenaka also congratulated the four APO regional awardees and 10 APO national awardees who were honored for their outstanding contributions to improving productivity at the regional and national levels. *(Please refer to the box below for a list of awardees.)*

Emphasizing the need for the APO to adapt to changing circumstances in the region and to emerging realities, Takenaka pointed out that APO activities must become more focused, its performance needs to become more cost-effective, and it should have more interactions with national and international organizations, both



Secretary-General Takenaka


inside and outside the region. He also mentioned that in order to make the best use of its expertise and knowledge, the APO should become more selective in its activities.

Touching upon the sharp decline in private-sector participation in APO programs, Takenaka expressed concern that the APO is clearly missing an indispensable sector of society. He further explained that the private sector is the main driver in any national productivity program and that if this sector is apathetic toward the productivity cause, all our productivity efforts could turn out to be meaningless. This could also undermine the relevance of NPOs in society as

they could be viewed as failing to provide useful services. Therefore, it is essential for the APO to seek as much private-sector participation in its projects as possible. Takenaka suggested that the details of three aspects of this issue be examined: 1) identification and selection of appropriate themes and design of suitable curricula relevant to private-sector needs; 2) sufficiently in-depth treatment of the training topic; and 3) more nominations of private-sector participants for projects.

On the issue of efficiency and cost-effectiveness in relation to Secretariat administration and project management, Takenaka mentioned various measures that have been taken so far. He also noted that restructuring of the Secretariat could be viewed as one part of ongoing efforts to achieve greater administrative efficiency, for which he sought the advice and guidance of the Governing Body during the meeting.

Takenaka stressed that the APO must continue to strengthen ties with other regional organizations to create synergies for mutual benefit. In this spirit, the APO is expanding its collaboration with a number of organizations including the ASEAN Foundation and Colombo Plan Secretariat. He also mentioned that the APO should play a more global and contributory role in enabling other regions to develop their productivity movements.

The Secretary-General then dealt with the two proposals that were sent to Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs by the previous Governing Body for an investigation of the operational details. One was whether to set an annual theme for APO activities and the other was whether to establish an APO organizational excellence award to recognize businesses and other organizations in member countries which have made significant achievements in productivity. Takenaka informed the GBM that the WSM would make a final decision on an annual theme only after careful evaluation of the results of GP-related activities, which were chosen as the special theme for 2004 and 2005. Instead of setting up a separate award, it was recommended that the APO continues organizing projects relating to quality and productivity awards so that member countries could refine their own award systems and mechanisms. 

APO Regional Awardees 2005

Dr. Chao-Yih Chen	Republic of China
Mr. Jong-Yong Yun	Republic of Korea
Datuk Mustafa Mansur	Malaysia
Mr. Sunil G. Wijesinha	Sri Lanka

APO National Awardees 2005

Mr. Sheng-Hsiung Hsu	Republic of China
Dr. Mohammad Hossein Emadi	Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. Young-Hwan Cho	Republic of Korea
Mr. Mah Lok Abdullah	Malaysia
Mr. Damdinjav Amarsaikhan	Mongolia
Dr. Abdul Quadir Jahangir Durrani	Pakistan
Mr. Filemon T. Berba, Jr.	The Philippines
Mr. Koh Juan Kiat	Singapore
Mr. Manu Leopaote	Thailand
Dr. Nguyen Huu Thien	Vietnam