

APO honors productivity champions

The Asian Productivity Organization established an award scheme in 1978 to give recognition to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion and improvement of productivity in Asia and the Pacific region. The award, known as the APO Award, was conferred once every three years until the scheme was revised and expanded in 1985. The revision included renaming as the APO Regional Award and the introduction of the new category of the APO National Award to commend individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of productivity promotion in the respective APO member countries. These two awards have been conferred once every five years, commencing from 1990. In addition, another new category, the APO Special National Awards, was introduced to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the APO in 1986.

At the opening session of this year's APO Governing Body Meeting in Tokyo, the APO honored three distinguished individuals with its Regional Award for outstanding contributions to the promotion and enhancement of productivity in Asia and the Pacific. They received the award, conferred once every five years, from APO Chairman Sheng-Hsiung Hsu. A fourth recipient, Jong-Yong Yun, Vice-Chairman and CEO of Samsung Electronics, Republic of Korea, could not attend the presentation ceremony. The citations for the three recipients present, as read by APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka, are given below.

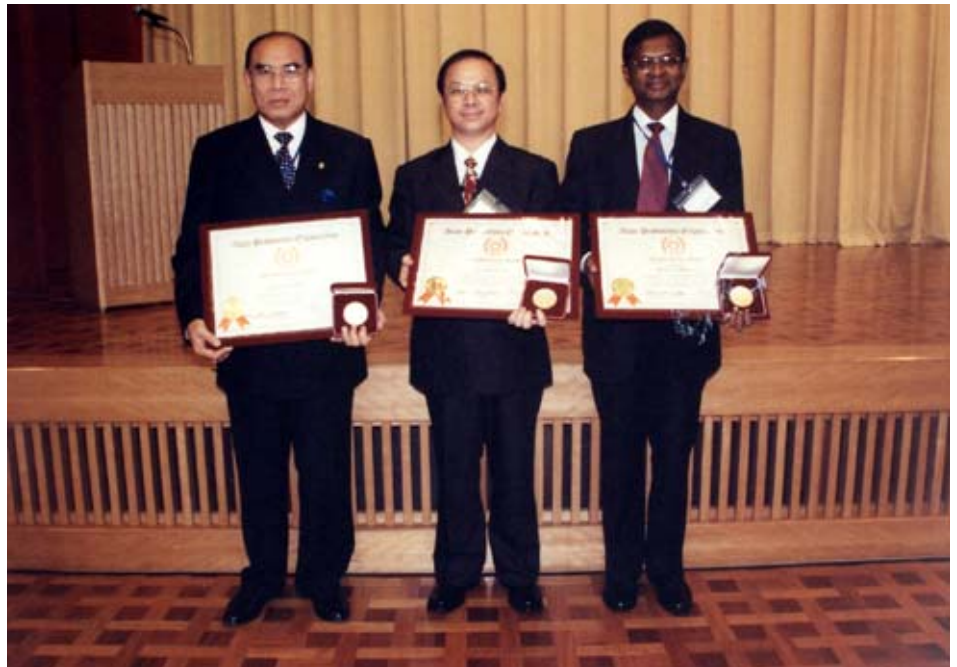
Dr. Chao-Yih Chen

Dr. Chen is the Director-General, Industrial Development Bureau, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Republic of China. He supervises the National Productivity Enhancement Program (NPEP) of Taiwan, which emphasizes Green Productivity and undertakes productivity enhancement programs in developing countries through Taiwanese investments. The dispatch of NPEP experts to APO member countries has helped to improve the operational efficiency of enterprises across Asia.

Dr. Chen assisted in the establishment of the International Green Productivity Association, which now has five national chapters, and the online Green Design Network to promote green product policies, provide training on greening supply chains, and upgrade Green Productivity. Under Dr. Chen's initiative, Taiwan's Green Productivity technical know-how was transferred to other Asian countries through consulting programs, seminars, forums, international workshops, and publications. He has himself presided over many international conferences relating to environmental protection.

Datuk Mustafa Mansur

Mustafa is the President of the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers. In this capacity, he



(L-R) Mustafa, Dr. Chen, and Wijesinha

helped to organize the first APO Eco-products International Fair, which was held in Malaysia, and served as Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

Mustafa is a Board Member of the National Productivity Corporation of Malaysia. His active involvement in the work of this organization and in promoting the productivity concept, tools, and techniques to Malaysian industries has had a significant impact on productivity and quality improvement in the industrial sector of the country. He has spoken on productivity throughout the region and has served as an APO resource speaker on several occasions, especially in the areas of creative entrepreneurship and technological innovations in SMEs. Mustafa has a long track record of distinguished public service in Malaysia, for which he was decorated by both state and federal governments.

Mr. Sunil G. Wijesinha

Wijesinha is the Managing Director and CEO of the

Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka Ltd. He played a pioneering role in promoting quality circles and 5S in Sri Lanka and founded the Quality Circle Association of Sri Lanka. Wijesinha helped launch the Sri Lanka National Productivity Year 1996 and the National Productivity Decade 1997–2006 and had a leading role in preparing the National Productivity Policy of Sri Lanka.

As President of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality & Productivity, he developed a network of collaboration with the Quality Circle Forum of India, AOTS-ABKD Alumni Association of Tamil Nadu of India, Pakistan Institute of Quality, and Bangladesh Society of Total Quality Management. Wijesinha has written and lectured extensively on quality circles, 5S, and other productivity-related subjects in Sri Lanka and other countries, including 10 APO member countries. He has also been deputed by the APO as a resource person. 