

# OEHS at the workplace

Companies once thought that there was a bottom-line tradeoff between safety and efficiency. Now it is increasingly recognized that designing a safe work environment can also result in greater efficiency and productivity. Green Productivity (GP) concepts developed by the APO help to increase productivity and enhance environmental protection including consideration of occupational health and safety requirements at the workplace. The easier it is to do a job, the more likely it is to see gains in productivity due to greater efficiency. Analogously, the safer it is to do a job, the more likely it is to see gains in productivity due to reduced time off for injuries. GP tools and methods can address both of these issues concurrently. The GP concept aims for socioeconomic development with the ultimate objective of sustained improvement in the quality of life. Therefore, the occupational, environmental health and safety (OEHS) of the workforce form a very important aspect of the GP Program.

The APO held a workshop on GP and OEHS in Taipei, Republic of China, 9–13 May, to illustrate how to apply the GP concept to improve the OEHS in all organizations. Nineteen individuals from 13 APO member countries attended. Since risk and hazard assessment is an important component of any OEHS program and there are already a number of well-established methodologies for risk assessment for improved OEHS, the workshop also explained them and associated activities for their adoption.

The participants heard presentations from resource persons on: GP concepts, principles, and practices and linkages with OEHS; Hazard and risk assessment; Management of health and safety standards at the workplace; OEHS legal framework in the ROC; Assessment methodology and facility audits for OEHS; Chemical and medical surveillance and monitoring; Data and information management; Business management, health, safety, and environment



*Group discussion in progress*

quality: Assessment of trends; Hazard communication; Emergency and disaster management and preparedness; Overview of OEHS monitoring and operation control; and Development of integrated OEHS management systems following ISO14001 and OHSAS18001 and development of action plans for certification.

The country papers presented by the participants reviewed the policy evolution and institutional framework for industrial development; current status of OEHS in participating countries; and current status of activities related to OEHS in participants' organizations. During the workshop, participants also had opportunities to discuss the emergency response plans of their organizations with a resource person and receive technical feedback on them. To observe OEHS practices in the host country, the participants visited the United Microelectronic Corporation. 🏭