

JPC-SED celebrates its 50th anniversary

The Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development (JPC-SED) commemorated its 50th anniversary with a grand ceremony at the Hotel Okura, Tokyo, 1 March 2005, which was graced by such dignitaries as Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Shoichi Nakagawa, Japan Business Federation Chairman Hiroshi Okuda, and Japanese Trade Union Confederation Chairman Kiyoshi Sasamori. Also featured were a special video-taped message from Singapore Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew and a commemorative speech by renowned architect Tadao Ando. The ceremony concluded with JPC-SED President Yasuo Sawama presenting a commemorative declaration on "Towards a Society Based on Mutual Trust and Vitality" (see box for full text).

JPC-SED Chairman Jiro Ushio, in his opening address, said that over the last 50 years the JPC-SED had tried its best to help the Japanese economy remain competitive through productivity enhancement in a harmonious environment. However, the economy is now facing enormous challenges from increasing globalization, rapid emergence of information technology, and an aging society. To meet the challenges, productivity improvement in intellectual, social, resource, and environmental capital is necessary. This could only be achieved through the creation of trust in the nation. The JPC-SED is keen to play its part to help the nation meet the challenges.

Prime Minister Koizumi, in congratulating the JPC-SED on its 50th anniversary, said that enhancing productivity continues to be of vital importance and there is no end to productivity improvement just as there is no end to reform. He pointed out that the JPC-SED has been playing an important role in revitalizing the Japanese economy. He expressed the hope that it will continue to help the Japanese economy address the emerging challenges.

The Japan Productivity Center was established in 1955 to enhance the economic development of postwar Japan through the productivity movement. In April 1994, it merged with the Social and Economic Congress of Japan to become the JPC-SED, a nonprofit and nongovernmental organization. The JPC-SED formulates policy proposals based on concrete studies and through achieving national consensus. It also actively supports industries and public-sector organizations in such areas as management innovation, modernization of



Koizumi delivering his congratulatory remarks

labor-management relations, and human resources development. With the support of over 10,000 members that include corporations, labor unions, and various other organizations and with its strong collaboration with seven regional productivity centers, the JPC-SED has been able to form a powerful nationwide network for the productivity movement in Japan. The JPC-SED initiated the establishment of the APO in 1961. 