

Roundtable Conference for the Promotion of the Productivity Movement in Africa

The APO received partnership proposals both from the National Productivity Institute (NPI) of South Africa and the Pan African Productivity Association (PAPA) in March 2005. PAPA is a loose alliance of NPOs and other organizations that share a common aspiration for and interest in productivity promotion in Africa. At present, eight NPOs are PAPA members.

In April 2005, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in his address to the Asia-Africa Summit held in Indonesia, mentioned that Japan would provide assistance to transfer the Asian experience in the productivity movement to Africa. The APO was selected as one of the international agencies to help in this cause, with a special fund from the Japanese government. In September 2005, the APO sent a fact-finding mission to three African countries to investigate the status of their productivity movements and explore the possibility of establishing an alliance with them. A series of initiatives under the plan to transfer productivity experience has led the APO to organize a Roundtable Conference for the Promotion of the Productivity Movement in Africa in cooperation with PAPA. The roundtable conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Sandton, South Africa, 28 to 31 August 2006. More than 40 productivity stakeholders such as NPO heads, senior government officials, CEOs of business organizations, and trade union leaders from seven PAPA members have been invited to take part. The



Dr. Dladla during the preparatory meeting with APO Secretariat staff

PAPA members are Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. A total of seven resource persons will be deputed from APO member countries, all of whom are current or former NPO Heads or senior officers. The APO Secretariat will be represented by Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka and staff.

The roundtable conference will consist of two parts. The first two days will be devoted to the sharing of Asian experiences by resource persons; and the final two days, which are crucial to make the APO's African Program sustainable, will be spent on the development of productivity master plans that should provide clear guidelines and roadmaps for each participating NPO to follow in promoting the national productivity movement. Dr. Yvonne Dladla, Executive Director of the NPI and concurrently Secretary General of PAPA, visited Tokyo in mid-July for discussions with Secretariat staff in preparation for the roundtable conference. 