

## Boosting private-sector participation

A key concern of the APO has been that in its seminars, training courses, and multi-country study missions, generally termed training-oriented projects, only a small percentage of the participants are from the private sector. This is considered undesirable as the private sector is a key player in any national productivity movement. The APO was keen to boost private-sector participation in all its projects, particularly those mentioned above. Feedback from member countries indicated that a major hindrance was the cost of airfares, which private-sector participants must bear themselves. At the recent APO Governing Body Meeting held in Seoul, on the suggestion of the APO Secretariat, it was decided to provide airfares and waive participating country expenses payment for all private-sector participants from the following countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal. For the remaining APO member countries, this benefit will only be extended to participants from private-sector SMEs. The only APO project type not covered by this new ruling, which took effect from 7 July 2006, is individual country study missions for which all participants must bear their own airfares.