



# APO *news*

## Creating eco-business in the BIMP-EAGA region

*The first regional workshop on Capacity Building for Creating an Eco-circulation Society through Biomass Utilization in the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines-East ASEAN Economic Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Region in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 5–9 December 2005 was organized by the APO and the National Productivity Corporation (NPC) of Malaysia with financial support from the ASEAN Foundation. The objectives were to train in the use of local resources, focusing on biomass waste; to build capacity in employment and income generation using available local resources leading to poverty eradication; to facilitate waste-to-energy projects for rural areas to improve living standards; and to facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology.*

**T**he workshop was part of an overall project in a two-tiered program linking activities at the regional and national levels. Participants from the targeted countries in Kota Kinabalu developed proposals and implementation plans for both levels. This was conducted as a training of trainers session, and those trained in the workshop will act as facilitators for the second tier. The regional dialogue will take place after the successful adoption of the actions or technological options identified in national-tier activities.



*Explaining composting methods at the EAC training farm*

The workshop used the Green Productivity (GP) methodology, including hands-on training in biomass utilization and eco-circulation societies, as well as training materials based on the experience of APO member countries, but modified for the needs of the BIMP-EAGA region.

The resource persons, Dr. Kazunari Masuda and Tadashi Adachi, Japan, Prof. Tay Joo Hwa, Singapore, and Jenny Tan, Malaysia, moderated proposal development. Fifteen participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines attended the workshop, with two from Indonesia as observers. The resource persons gave presentations on:

- 1) A policy perspective on becoming a recycling society, focusing on biomass utilization from the private-sector perspective, the potential of biomass, and overview of biomass conversion technologies;
- 2) The GP approach to biomass waste utilization, with key proposals for BIMP-EAGA;
- 3) Team formation and planning with identification of problems and causes through the GP process; and
- 4) Eco-business opportunities for biomass waste utilization.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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**"I'm a come-what-may person. If something feels right, I'll go with it. It's not the outcome that matters, it's the creative process."**

**Amy Tan**

### INSIDE

- 2.... p-Watch—USA
- 3.... p-TIPS
- 4.... New APO Publication
- 4.... Common Sense Talk
- 5.... Study mission on agro-industry
- 5.... New Officer at APO Secretariat
- 6.... First APO mission to Sweden
- 6.... Second distance-learning seminar on TQM
- 7.... p-Experts
- 7.... APO-NPO Update
- 7.... Program calendar
- 8.... Forum on Development of NPOs

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## Creating eco-business..... (Continued from page 1)

A visit to Sabah's Environment Action Committee's (EAC) training organic farm in Bundu Tuhan, at the foothills of Mt. Kinabalu, demonstrated the benefits of organic vegetables and organic farming using locally available waste and resources. The farm has about 100 trainees, mainly from the surrounding village, and is supported by grants sourced by the EAC.

The country teams identified problems in current biomass waste management to seek possible opportunities. Options involving the utilization of municipal solid waste as biofertilizer and of oil palm empty fruit bunches and palm oil mill effluent (Malaysia), conversion of solid market waste and gambier liquid into biofertilizer for use on a pilot organic farm (Indonesia), and the use of waste from fruit, rice hull and husk, livestock, and wood chips as strategic biomass (the Philippines) were proposed. The options were preliminary and sufficient quantitative data were lacking and therefore they must be developed into background papers for the next phase of the project, i.e., the in-country workshops to be planned for early 2006. 