

# First Iranian national seminar on kaizen

**T**he First National Seminar on Kaizen organized by the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) and National Iranian Productivity Organization (NIPO) with the sponsorship of 21 industrial companies was held on 2 October 2005 at Tehran University Management College. It was attended by more than 400 participants, including chief executive officers, senior experts, supervisors, workers, consultants, professors, and students. The study visit on the following day was to the factory of Takceram Company, a producer of tiles used in the construction industry, in Isafhan, where employees shared their experience and kaizen achievements with seminar participants.



*Seminar participants at Takceram*

Takceram is a model company selected to host a demonstration project on the recommendation of NIPO. The main objective of the demonstration project was to assist in the establishment of demonstration (model) companies to achieve improved productivity in factories or companies and disseminate the results for others to benchmark against. Takceram participated in the project from 2003, completed the planning and implementation stages, and is ready for dissemination of its accomplishments. The APO appointed kaizen consultant Shuichi Yoshida as the facilitator for this project on kaizen in Takceram Company.

IDRO representative Etemadi opened the national seminar. After welcoming the guests, he pointed out that Takceram had saved 10 billion rials (approximately US\$1.1 million) through its kaizen application. Yoshida summarized the project details at Takceram and its results, reiterating that kaizen can be used not only in manufacturing but also in other business areas because it is a universal improvement tool for almost all human activities. Representatives of kaizen teams from Takceram, Iran Khodro, Saipa, Iran Combine Factory, and Tabriz Machine Factory explained the kaizen activities and mechanisms in their companies. The seminar concluded with an award presentation to selected successful kaizen teams. 🏆