



APO *news*

Korea hosts 48th APO Governing Body Meeting


The Governing Body of the APO meets annually in a member country to receive the annual report of the Secretary-General and the audited financial report for the preceding year and to make policy decisions. This year's meeting was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 13–15 June, with 52 delegates comprising directors, advisers, and observers. It was organized jointly by the Korea Productivity Center (KPC) and the APO Secretariat.

Outgoing APO Chairman Taito Waqa, in his opening address, welcomed all guests and delegates and expressed gratitude to the Government of the Republic Korea for hosting the meeting. He also thanked the APO Secretary-General and Secretariat staff for their preparatory work. He noted that productivity, as a strategy for socioeconomic development, was being endorsed by an ever-increasing number of countries on all continents of the globe. Waqa cautioned that although the APO had a 45-year history in promoting productivity, its members should continue their efforts and maintain their lead in this endeavor.



Inaugural Session of the Governing Body Meeting

APO Director for the Republic of Korea and Chairman and CEO of the KPC S.K. Bae, in welcoming the guests and delegates, stated that hosting the 48th session of the APO Governing Body was an honor for the Republic of Korea. Since its establishment in 1957, the KPC had been a leading institution in the nation in developing human resources by offering training and consultancy in various fields, Bae noted. He reminded the audience that the Republic of Korea had been one of the first signatories to the APO Convention in 1961 and had always cooperated closely with the organization. Emphasizing the significance of the Governing Body, he hoped that the meeting would serve as a good opportunity to publicize the APO's productivity endeavors among the Korean public.

Vice Minister of Commerce, Industry and Energy Jong-Kap Kim delivered the inaugural address, in which he said that building a regional community was urgent since economic, cultural, and social issues in one country instantaneously affected its neighbors. Kim noted that Asia was becoming an increasingly important player in the world economy and was seen as the engine driving it in the years ahead. According to an International Monetary Fund estimate for 2006, the global economy is expected to grow at the rate of 4.9%, with growth in Asia at 7%; the Asian Development Bank has confirmed that Asia is within reach of sustainable growth given its large, relatively young population and commitment to building a regional economy based on free trade. Kim cited the Green Productivity Program as a good example of initiatives taken by the APO, the success of which has propelled other countries to adopt similar methods. He said that this exemplified the APO's direct relevance and creativity in addressing Asian concerns. 

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"It is wise to direct your anger toward problems—not people; to focus your energies on answers—not excuses."

William Arthur Ward

INSIDE

- 2.... Annual report of the Secretary-General
- 3.... Occupational and environmental health and safety: Risk analysis and management
- 4.... p-Guru
- 5.... Common Sense Talk
- 6.... Cambodia hosts course on productivity improvement in the public sector
- 6.... New APO Chairman and Vice Chairmen
- 6.... APO Photo Contest 2006
- 7.... p-Experts
- 7.... APO-NPO Update
- 7.... Program calendar
- 8.... Teaching productivity
- 8.... Eco-products International Fair in Singapore

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