

## South African Deputy President visits Secretariat

South African Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka visited the APO Secretariat in Tokyo on 20 April with the nation's Minister of Minerals and Energy Lindiwe Benedicta Hendricks, Ambassador to Japan Baldwin Siphon Ngubane, and other senior government officials and met APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka.

Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka said that South Africa was keen to receive the APO's support in the area of human resources development. In response, the Secretary-General said that the APO, in collaboration with other institutions, planned to organize a Roundtable Conference on the Productivity Movement in the South African capital of Johannesburg, 28–31 August, attended by representatives of seven African nations and APO experts. In addition, Takenaka said that a staff member of South Africa's National Productivity Institute (NPI), the country's NPO, was scheduled to attend the annual three-week workshop on Development of Productivity Specialists to be held in the Philippines in October.

Takenaka also emphasized the importance of NPOs, noting that they had played an important role in the development of currently advanced Asian nations, and added that governments needed to support their NPOs while allowing them autonomy.

Two NPI representatives attended the APO's Governing Body meeting as observers in June 2005 and South Africa's and Botswana's NPOs had one observer each at the annual Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs in February 2006. The APO sent a fact-finding mission to South Africa, Botswana, and Kenya in September 2005 to investigate the current status of their productivity movements.



*Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka (L) and Secretary-General Takenaka (R)*