

Secretary-General visits Jakarta

APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka was on an official trip to Jakarta, Indonesia, 10–12 April. The Secretary-General attended the inauguration of the 62nd session of the UNESCAP Ministerial Meeting on 10 April, where President of Indonesia Bambang Susilo Yudhoyono inaugurated the meeting and gave a keynote address. On 11 April, he met with the APO Director for Indonesia and other senior officials of the NPO and those from other productivity-related ministries, following which he gave the keynote address at the inaugural session of the general meeting of the National Productivity Board, which is a new body established under presidential decree following the recommendations of the national Productivity Roundtable Conference in 2003.

On 12 April, Takenaka also paid courtesy visits to the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Foundation while in Jakarta. He expressed his appreciation for the ASEAN Foundation's collaboration in APO projects, which commenced in 2001 with a single project; in 2006, four projects will be conducted jointly.

During his visit, the Secretary-General conveyed the message that the APO is seeking greater participation by the private sector in its projects, pointing out the Eco-products International Fairs as examples of the crucial role the sector can play. He underlined the need for Indonesia to reenergize its productivity movement and nationwide productivity and quality initiatives. For this purpose, he said that it would be essential to invite and encourage a greater role of the business community. Those suggestions were well received in Jakarta. Minister of Industry Fahmi Idris fully supported the idea and recommended that the APO establish contact with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Along the same lines, ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong recognized the prominent role of Indonesia's Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the private sector. He held the same view that the chamber would make a strong partner in promoting the productivity movement in the country.

On its part, the NPO Indonesia was preparing to launch new initiatives to reach out to the private sector. Among them, the NPO plans to promote the establishment of a productivity association with prominent CEOs and corporate owners as members.