

Workshop on Green Productivity and Solid Waste Management

The Asia-Pacific region currently generates more than 90,000 tons per day of solid waste and will reach more than 1.8 million tons per day by 2025, keeping pace with a 4% urban growth rate. The management of solid waste has become critical issue for cities in Asia and the Pacific, as its indiscriminate disposal poses severe environmental and health hazards. A few countries like Japan, Singapore, India, and the Philippines have enacted regulations and laws specifically to deal with solid waste, while others are examining how to do so. To assess the present status and share success stories and approaches taken by various member countries to tackle solid waste problems, the APO organized a workshop on Green Productivity and Solid Waste Management in the Philippines, 26–30 June. The workshop was attended by 21 participants from 16 member countries.

The focus of the workshop was discussion of the three major issues of 3R (reduce, recycle, and reuse) initiatives; waste collection, storage, and transfer; and waste processing and disposal technologies. The resource persons from Japan, Thailand, and the Philippines elaborated on the latest trends in those

countries from a business and technological perspective, while the APO officer in charge explained how the Green Productivity approach could help 3R initiatives to be more effective. It was noted that various approaches are taken in member countries, including legislation, users' fees levied along with electricity bills or volume-based fees, and conversion of organic elements into compost.

During the workshop, the participants visited Tagaytay to observe its waste management practices. After the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act came into effect in 2001, which mandates diversion of 25% of waste from disposal, material recovery facilities (MRF) have been set up at *barangay* (lowest governing unit) level in Philippines. The participants visited several MRFs and saw innovative methods for waste reuse and recycling in action. On the final day of the workshop, the participants were divided into three groups under the guidance of the resource persons to develop solid waste management plans, which were then presented to Tagaytay municipal officials for their comments.