

International productivity showcase and best practice network

The first APO International Productivity Showcase and Best Practice Networking Forum on SMEs was organized in association with the National Productivity Secretariat (NPS), 15–17 December 2014, in Colombo to provide an opportunity for the SME sector to share best practices and benchmark against success stories among all member countries.

Twenty-four presentations were made at the forum, most covering tools for lean manufacturing (5S, kaizen, layout improvement) as best practices. Others concerned knowledge management, Green Productivity, working practices, and product promotion. Overall, these tools lead to improved delivery time, higher efficiency, reduced rejection rates, lower costs, increased sales, and improved customer and employee satisfaction. A case study by a Malaysian participant was on best practices in solid waste collection and management to improve the quality of public service delivery using systems and technology. There were six case study presentations from Sri Lanka, on the topics of 5S, kaizen, motivational programs, process improvement, and industrial engineering.

Sri Lankan Minister of Productivity Promotion Basheer Segu-



Minister of Productivity Promotion Segudawoud (L), CEO/Secretary of the Senior Ministers' Secretariat Madihahewa (2nd from the left) joining delegates for an SME best practice presentation. Photo courtesy of NPS.

dawoud and CEO/Secretary of the Senior Ministers' Secretariat Mahinda Madihahewa welcomed APO participants at the inaugural. Two APO resource speakers from Malaysia and India supported the forum, which consisted of knowledge-sharing sessions, best practice presentations, and panel discussions. Apart from 24 APO participants, more than 250 representing SME entrepreneurs, consultants, government employees, academia, and others attended the forum. That high turnout highlighted the level of interest shown in different best practices by productivity stakeholders at various levels. 🌐