

New officer at the Secretariat

On 1 July, Hikaru Horiguchi started in his position as Senior Program Officer at the APO Secretariat in the newly created Energy Efficiency Program (EEP) under a special cash grant from the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).



The overall aim of the EEP is to train trainers who can lead EE initiatives and build up pools of EE practitioners in five selected APO member countries: Bangladesh; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; and Sri Lanka. As a first step, Horiguchi is fine-tuning the details of the EEP and developing training modules, while conducting research and engaging in discussions with the Energy Conservation Center of Japan and others. He commented, “I’m mainly in charge of the EEP, but based on my various working experiences in the Japanese government, I’d like to contribute to other APO activities as well.”

Born in Tokyo, Horiguchi is a graduate of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Tokyo, who majored in IT. He was previously seconded to the Board of Audit of Japan as a technical counsellor in the General Executive Bureau. Prior to that, he was the director-general of Planning Headquarters, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, the largest public research institute in Japan; served in the Chicago office, Japan External Trade Organization; and held various positions in METI related to IT, manufacturing, and services. Horiguchi has achieved the highest ranking in *shogi* (Japanese chess) and enjoys playing online since face-to-face opponents are hard to find at that level. Married with a primary school-aged son and daughter, most of his weekends are spent looking after the energetic pair. 🌀