

Spreading the MFCA word

The APO, in collaboration with the NPO of Indonesia, organized a workshop on Material Flow Cost Accounting (MFCA), 24–28 August. Twenty-three participants from 13 countries gathered in Jakarta, with three resource speakers from Germany and Japan, to formulate strategies to disseminate the MFCA concept and practices. MFCA was originally an environmental management tool developed in Germany. With years of practice and refinement, it has become a unique management technique that contributes to cost reductions, quality improvement, and greater efficiency. The APO has been implementing MFCA projects since 2010, and this workshop was designed to deepen MFCA practices in member countries. A feature of the workshop especially appreciated by many participants, including Japan K. Trivedi of India, Thongphet Phonsavath of Lao PDR, and Aftab Khan Masood of Pakistan, was an introduction to and hands-on training in the use of recent technical MFCA software.

The participants drafted and signed a declaration expressing their commitment to establishing national MFCA forums in their home countries. On the final day of the workshop, a ceremony was held to launch the Indonesian MFCA Forum, and Minister of Manpower Muhammad Hanif Dhakiri signed the declaration as a witness. Minister Hanif hoped that the forum would “institutionalize efforts in this area and encourage widespread utilization of this technique... to improve overall productivity.” The workshop and launch ceremony received significant support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Indonesian Ministry of Manpower, and Embassy of Japan in Indonesia. Participants planned to use the strategies taught in the workshop and attempt to form national MFCA forums for the widest possible benefit. 🌐