

New era in the regional green economy



GPAC board members, with newly elected Chairperson Hajime Bada, Honorary Adviser, JFE Holdings, Inc.

“Utilizing the vast network of the APO to connect with Asian countries, the Green Productivity Advisory Committee (GPAC) hopes to continue to play an active role in achieving a sustainable society,” stated GPAC Chair Teisuke Kitayama, Chairman of the Board, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, as he opened the 14th GPAC meeting, 3 February, at the Rihga Royal Hotel, Tokyo. In referring to COP21 and the adoption of the Paris Agreement, he stressed that, “These global events have a significant impact on the Japanese industry, not only in strengthening our own efforts for greater technological innovation and new business development in the area of the environment and energy, but also in sharing green technologies with other APO members in their development efforts.” The GPAC, established in 2003, is a unique network of high-level representatives from leading Japanese private-sector corporations with expertise in green business and green technologies. The APO works closely with the GPAC to benefit from members’ guidance on key GP programs such as the Eco-products International Fair (EPIF).

Attended by representatives from GPAC member companies as well as observers from the Japanese government, foreign missions, and other Japanese environmental and industrial agencies, the meeting had several agenda items, including the reappointment of the two vice chairs, a report on preparations for the 10th EPIF to be held in Thailand in June, and the endorsement of Vietnam as the host country for the 11th EPIF to be held in Ho Chi Minh City in 2017.

In his presentation, Director-General of the Federation of Thai Industries Jumrud Sawangsamud briefed the GPAC on efforts underway to promote the event. He emphasized that participation in the EPIF represented an opportunity for enterprises in the environmental field and sought the cooperation and support of the GPAC in making it successful. Representing the EPIF Preparatory Committee, Senior Advisor to ORIX Corporation and Committee Chair Yukio Yanase detailed the potential advantages of the EPIF and urged GPAC members to give their full support to it.

The meeting included the handover from former Chair Kitayama to Honorary Adviser, JFE Holdings, Inc., Hajime Bada. In his acceptance speech, the new chair expressed his commitment to the committee, noting that, “The recent global developments in the area of climate change mitigation have been a turning point for the activities of this committee. It will be a meaningful, honorable role to act as chair at such a critical time, and I look forward to making my greatest efforts to intensify the significance of this committee.”

In closing the meeting, the GPAC endorsed three proposals by Chair Bada: 1) In recognition of the significance of the upcoming 10th EPIF in the response of the region to the needs created by climate change, the GPAC will continue supporting the fair through the EPIF Preparatory Committee. 2) The GPAC will also assist in the planning of the 11th EPIF through the EPIF Preparatory Committee. 3) The APO Secretariat and EPIF Preparatory Committee Chair will organize the next GPAC meeting, its agenda, and initiatives for the expansion of its membership. 🌱

Eco-Products International Fair 2016



Date: 8–11 June

Venue: Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC), Bangkok, Thailand

Organized by the APO, Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), and Thailand Productivity Institute (FTPI)

Official website: www.epif2016-thailand.com/en