

## Green practices in action


**T**he APO conducted a training course on Green Productivity (GP), 21–25 March, in collaboration with the National Training and Productivity Centre of Fiji. Twenty-two participants from 17 APO members and three observers from Colombia gathered in Nadi to examine the concept, methodology, tools, and practices of GP. In the five-day course, they acquired up-to-date knowledge and experiences from the resource persons from India, Malaysia, and Singapore; observed green practices of one of the biggest resorts in Fiji; and exchanged ideas and perspectives on sustainable development and productivity enhancement.

During this intensive training, participants and observers learned about basic GP tools and techniques, material flow cost accounting, concepts of energy management and auditing, and energy efficiency in thermal and electrical systems. Through lively interactions with resource persons and hands-on simulation activities, participants quickly learned to analyze operational issues and identify opportunities for productivity improvement. They also visited Radisson Blu Resort Fiji, which has the largest roof-mounted solar system in the hospitality industry in the Pacific Islands, to observe its waste management system, photovoltaic panels, and numerous green initiatives.

Another highlight was the participation of the Colombian observers, who joined the course following the signing of

a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in December 2015 between the APO and the Center of Science and Technology of Antioquia, Colombia (CTA). The MOU promotes collaboration between the two organizations and expansion of the productivity movement to Latin America. Amazed by the abundant knowledge gained from the training course and the APO network, Juan Ramirez of the CTA acknowledged that he had acquired “very interesting knowledge and important experiences to utilize and replicate.” Most importantly, he was excited to have “met a group of people and institutions with whom we share common interests.”

Chief Guest Losana Rokotuibau, Director of Town and Country Planning, Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment, shared the same perspective and stated that, “The development of a GP movement in the Asia-Pacific will only be achieved when we are all able to move forward together, harmoniously, and with a common vision to enhance productivity.” She urged participants to take back practical ideas received and make changes in their home countries to pursue greener, more productive development.

Appreciating the abundant knowledge acquired and the friends made in the course, Shafiq Ahmad Abbasi of Pakistan agreed on the importance of GP and concluded that, “This training course is very beneficial for our countries, environment, and sustainable development.” 



*Participants visiting the Radisson Blu Resort to observe GP initiatives and good practices.*