



Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn joins the APO

As Secretary-General, he aims to focus on making member economies more productive and competitive by 2020.

On 16 September, the APO Secretariat welcomed 11th Secretary-General Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn. He was elected unanimously at the 58th Governing Body Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in April 2016 to succeed Secretary-General Mari Amano, who completed his term of office on 15 September.

Secretary-General Dr. Kanoktanaporn is an industry veteran with over 40 years of hands-on experience in driving productivity enhancement initiatives and strategic international development programs. He also has vast experience ranging from product quality control, to environment and waste management consultancy, to the telecom and petrochemical sectors.

“I am really happy to be at the APO Secretariat, the premier organization focused on improving productivity across the Asia-Pacific region. I have a long association with the APO, particularly during my recent tenure at the Thailand Productivity Institute (FTPI), and hope to work closely with NPOs to understand their country-specific needs and translate them into meaningful programs that can contribute to sustainable socioeconomic development,” he commented.

He added that as Secretary-General his focus would be on making member countries more productive and competitive by 2020. “Globally, economies are concerned about further improving productivity through the use of better technologies and by reducing wastage of resources. The APO was the first organization in the world to promote the concept of Green Productivity, and I want to strengthen the APO’s leadership role to help even less-developed economies achieve low-carbon development.”

Dr. Kanoktanaporn has a PhD in Chemistry from Sunderland Polytechnic in the UK and a Master’s in Management

from Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration. He is the author of several academic research papers and has translated two books, *Power and Love* and *Transformative Scenario Planning* by Adam Kahane. Before heading the APO Secretariat, Dr. Kanoktanaporn was Executive Director of the FTPI, where he developed the master plan (2016–2020) for improving national productivity for the Ministry of Industry. He was also responsible for developing the Sustainable Corporate Index, a self-assessment tool to help Thai companies identify gaps in their roadmaps and action plans to achieve sustainability.

During his tenure at the FTPI, Dr. Kanoktanaporn expanded its productivity initiatives through local and international networks, while encouraging organizations to adopt Thailand Quality Award (TQA) management excellence guidelines for self-assessment and continuous improvement. Under his guidance, the TQA was conceived as a national productivity strategy to help public and private organizations make sustainable management improvements to enhance competitiveness.

The new Secretary-General previously served as the President of the Foundation for Industrial Development for the Management System Certification Institute (Thailand), a not-for-profit foundation under the Ministry of Industry, where he was responsible for increasing national competitiveness through standardization and the development of competency in the public and private sectors to meet international standards. He developed the first Thai management system standard, TISI 9999: Sufficiency Economy Guideline for Industry. Other roles included Chairman of the CB Association of Thailand, Country Manager (Thailand) of the US Chamber of Commerce, and Managing Director of Sysmen Company Limited. 