

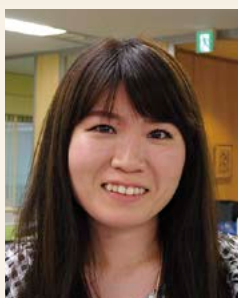
New @ Secretariat

Mayu Chiba



She is already a popular face in the Secretariat and effective from 1 August, Mayu Chiba took on new responsibilities as a project officer in the Industry Department. She previously served as a project assistant in the Research & Planning Department. Mayu has a Master's degree in International Economics and Finance from the University of Queensland, Australia, and several years of global financial industry experience, including project implementation, training of overseas staff in Singapore, and setting up JETRO's new office in Ibaraki. She has also worked with stakeholders throughout the region. In her new position, she is eager to cooperate and engage with all NPOs to identify specific needs, issues, and solutions to address their productivity improvement needs. "I hope to contribute to the APO by maximizing my skills and experience by working closely with colleagues from different countries," she commented. When not in the office, she likes holiday travel and engaging in outdoor activities. She is also fond of cooking and listening to music.

Ai Matsumaru



Working with an intergovernmental organization might be a new experience for Ai Matsumaru but she is not new to the international business environment. The Industry Department project assistant who joined the APO Secretariat on 1 August is experienced in working with international development consulting firms and was responsible for managing and coordinating various Japan International Cooperation Agency projects as part of her assignment at PADECO. With an MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science, Ai looks forward to making good use of her experience to enable smooth delivery of APO projects. An avid karaoke fan, she loves J-Pop, K-Pop, and rock as well as exploring new destinations, particularly world heritage sites and experiencing local culture and food. "Asia is the one of the regions having the most variety of cultures and traditions in the world and I look forward to communicating with various people and learning from the diverse cultures at the APO," she said.

Shoko Ikezaki



A firm believer in the "less is more" mantra, Shoko Ikezaki is the newest face in the Industry Department, joining as a project assistant on 15 August. She is an alumna of the Osaka University School of International Public Policy, where she studied international law, labor law, and international human rights for an MA after receiving a BA in Sociology from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Shoko has rich international experience in community development, environmental and pollution management, and microwatershed management programs in Japan, Nepal, and India, during which she was involved in project accountability monitoring, managing implementation progress, and financial reporting to donor agencies like the Japan International Cooperation Agency. A cycling and yoga enthusiast, Shoko is also fond of watching documentaries and films on development and interested in learning about the spirit of Zen. As part of the APO Secretariat, she is looking forward to learning from everyone and "bringing smiles and laughter" to the office every day.