

# APO conducts program in Colombia



*In-plant productivity assessment practicum at Dyna Corporation in Medellín, Colombia. Photo: CTA*

Spreading its wings beyond the Asia-Pacific, the APO reached out to South America to organize a training course on the Development of Productivity Practitioners in Colombia. The two-week workshop was organized in the city of Medellín jointly with Colombia's Centre of Science and Technology of Antioquia (CTA). Twenty-five local productivity consultants attended, facilitated by APO resource persons from Malaysia and Singapore.

The course was based on similar ones held in Asia and Africa. Its modules were in a train-the-trainers format to enable participants to identify, use, and explain approaches and tools while diagnosing productivity issues and devising and implementing solutions under an integrated framework. The latest trends in the productivity movement in Asia were also shared.

Learning from the experience of APO member countries in enhancing productivity were among the key points highlighted by participants. Impressed with the successful

integration of productivity techniques and philosophy guided by well-trained productivity experts from Asia, Senior Lecturer from the National University of Colombia Jose Ignacio Maya Guerra said that he would develop a new course on consulting based on the program.

CTA Director Santiago Echavarría Escobar congratulated those who successfully completed the course and hoped they would collaborate with the CTA in providing productivity consulting services in Medellín, especially to SMEs.

The course was organized under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the APO and CTA in December 2015. The APO and CTA will continue cooperation and exchanges to promote productivity and innovation under the general collaborative framework set out in the MOU with the support of the Mayor's Office of Medellín through its International Cooperation Agency. 🌐