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**Press  
Release**

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### **APO Honors Asia-Pacific Productivity Champions for 2011**

The Asian Productivity Organization (APO), an intergovernmental organization comprising 20 member economies and the prime mover in productivity-enhancing initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region, today conferred the APO Regional Awards 2011 on five winners at the Inaugural Session of its 53rd Governing Body Meeting held at the Royale Chulan Kuala Lumpur Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The APO Regional Awards are only given every five years to individuals who have contributed significantly to advancing the productivity movement in the Asia-Pacific region. The awardees for 2011 are Dr. Tyzz-Jiun Duh (Republic of China), Mr. Rachmat Gobel (Indonesia), Mr. Tsuneaki Taniguchi (Japan), Dr. Dong-Kyu Choi (Republic of Korea), and Former President Fidel V. Ramos (Republic of the Philippines).

**Dr. Tyzz-Jiun Duh** is being recognized for his contributions to improving productivity in the ROC's industry sector and facilitating SME growth, and in so doing promoting trade and economic relations between the ROC and other countries. Dr. Duh is currently the Director General of the Industrial Development Bureau of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Professor at Soochow University and Chinese Culture University. Prior to these positions, Dr. Duh held various leadership roles in the Small and Medium Enterprises Administration, Department of Commerce, Department of Industrial Technology, and Industrial Development Bureau.

**Mr. Rachmat Gobel** is being recognized for his contributions to improving productivity in Indonesia's industry sector and demonstrating the significant role of private-sector leaders in expanding economic opportunities for the country through strategic partnerships with the rest of Asia and the Pacific. Mr. Gobel is currently Vice Chairman of the Advisory Board of KADIN Indonesia and Vice Chairman of the Employers' Association of Indonesia. He also serves as President Director of PT Gobel International and President Commissioner or Director of numerous Indonesian companies under the PT Gobel portfolio; Vice-President for Industry Research and Technology and Chairman of the Patronage Council of the Indonesia-Japan Economic Committee of the Indonesian Chamber of Industry; and Chairman of the Federation of Indonesian Electronic Industries. He chaired the local Executive Committee of the 6th Eco-products International Fair 2010 in Jakarta.

**Mr. Tsuneaki Taniguchi** is being recognized for his outstanding advocacy of expanding knowledge and skills on productivity and quality management across Asia and the Pacific. As the President of the Japan Productivity Center (JPC) since 2005 and prior to that an officer for over 40 years in the JPC, including serving as APO Liaison Officer from 1988 to 1996, Mr. Taniguchi promoted the introduction of the business excellence framework in Japan and led the establishment of the Japan Quality Awards in 1995. He epitomizes a productivity capacity

building champion who has thoughtfully led his organization in sharing Japan's productivity knowledge with other APO members. Mr. Taniguchi concurrently serves as Adviser to Kyorin University and the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship in Japan. He is also a Director of the Japan International Labor Foundation and Vice-Chair of the APO Green Productivity Advisory Committee.

**Dr. Dong-Kyu Choi** is being recognized for expanding the ROK's productivity outreach program to the rest of Asia and the Pacific and in the process spreading the benefits of the ROK's many productivity innovations. As Chairman and CEO of the Korea Productivity Center since 2008, Dr. Choi has consistently advocated "human-centered productivity enhancement" by proactively initiating mutual cooperation programs not only with Asian partners like Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Indonesia but also with non-APO partners like Tunisia, Kazakhstan, and the Pan-African Productivity Association. Dr. Choi is also currently a Commissioner of the Presidential Regional Development Committee and Financial Policy Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Strategy and Finance. He was former Administrator of the Small and Medium Business Administration and President of Songho College, Research Institute for Gangwon and the Korean Association of Small Business Studies.

**Former President Fidel V. Ramos** is being recognized for his civilian leadership in advocating sustainable development as a way of life, not only in his country but also throughout Asia and the Pacific. After his term as President of the Republic in 1998, Mr. Ramos established and chaired the Ramos Peace and Development (RPDEV) Foundation, an NGO that serves as "a catalyst of constructive change, a medium for fostering unity, stability, and progress, and a force for mutual understanding," not only in the Philippines but worldwide. Former President Ramos has dedicated himself and the RPDEV to contributing to bringing about the "good life" for democratic societies through a culture of excellence and global competitiveness. He is also former Chair of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) and now a member of the Council of Advisors of the BFA, "a nongovernment, nonprofit international organization promoting regional economic integration and bringing Asian countries even closer to their development goals. The BFA is the most prestigious forum for leaders in government, business, and academia in Asia and elsewhere to share visions on the most pressing issues in this dynamic region and the world at large." In 2009, Mr. Ramos supported the APO, Development Academy of the Philippines, and Philippine Business for the Environment at the 5th Eco-products International Fair in Manila.

This is only the eighth conferring of the APO Awards since their inception in 1979. To date, 76 individuals have been awarded, 18 of whom are regional awardees. APO Secretary-General Ryuichiro Yamazaki noted that in the 50 years since its establishment in 1961, the APO has been the sole international organization in the region with the mission of contributing to the socioeconomic development of its members through enhancing productivity. The APO is especially proud to mark its golden jubilee with an outstanding lineup of recipients who serve as living testimony to the APO's mission. The APO, which is commemorating its 50th anniversary this year, is grateful to the Government of Malaysia for graciously hosting this year's GBM.

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