

Foreword

The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) has been conducting various activities related to the environment over the past 10 years to increase environmental awareness and promote policy, technology, and knowledge on the protection and improvement of the environment among its member countries. Inspired by the developments during 1992 such as the Earth Summit in Rio and Agenda 21, the APO launched its Special Program for the Environment in 1994 under a special grant from the Japanese government.

In an endeavor to find practical and attractive approaches for industries to deal with both productivity and environmental protection for sustainable development, the APO has decided to tackle the issue with the concept of Green Productivity (GP). In concrete terms, GP aims at improving environment in the process of increasing productivity, thus giving a competitive edge to businesses in the age of globalization.

To substantiate the GP concept, the APO has adopted a multi-dimensional micro-to-macro approach to promote GP practices. It focuses on the enterprise level through the applications of productivity and management tools (such as TQM, 5S, TPM etc.) that go in tandem with waste and emission prevention, energy conservation, pollution control, and environmental management systems. Initially taking off in the industrial sector, GP is now being increasingly applied to agriculture, service industry, and even communities. GP is thus evolving as a drive with comprehensive strategies for sustainable socio-economic development.

To operationalize GP at practical levels, the APO has developed a six-step, 13-task methodology following Deming's plan-do-check-act (PDCA) cycle. This methodology has been successfully applied in the past few years throughout the APO region in various GP demonstration programs and has been found to be very effective and productive. While the PDCA framework provides the basic skeleton of GP implementation, the distinctive part of GP methodology is its ever-expanding set of tools and techniques to complement the PDCA framework. This methodology has been thus field-tested and is being disseminated through various training programs in APO member countries.

I am very pleased to present this GP Trainer's Resource Manual, which is the culmination of the efforts of many GP experts from the region over the past few years. This manual has so far been used in many of the APO's multi-country workshops and by the national productivity organizations (NPOs) in their in-country GP programs. By publishing this manual, the APO hopes that the NPOs in APO member countries as well as other national and international agencies can learn more about GP and possibly adopt GP principles and methodology in their training and capacity-building activities.

I would like to record my sincere appreciation to all the GP experts who have contributed to this manual.

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