



Asian Productivity Organization (APO)
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Press Release

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APO, GraSPP of The University of Tokyo sign MOU for collaboration on research and knowledge sharing

The two organizations will conduct joint research for driving policy interventions to support Asian economies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Tokyo: The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo (GraSPP), to conduct joint research for driving policy interventions and capacity development on productivity and innovation. The initiative is aimed at supporting Asian economies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The MOU was signed by APO Secretary-General Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn and GraSPP Dean Akio Takahara in Tokyo, 12 March 2019. It will enable the two organizations to conduct joint research to help Asian economies achieve decent work and economic growth (SDG #8), as well as in the areas of industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG #9). It will also contribute to initiatives to promote sustainable cities and communities (SDG #11) and responsible consumption and production (SDG #12) across APO member countries.

Sharing details of the agreement, Secretary-General Dr. Santhi said that the engagement would allow the APO and GraSPP to exchange experience and information in areas of mutual interest. “The unpredictable nature of the technology-driven economy makes it necessary for all economies to align their efforts to drive socioeconomic development. To achieve this, economies now need to shift from an extensive-growth strategy to a productivity-driven one. The APO is committed to helping member countries in their journey of transformation and the MOU with GraSPP is another step toward this.”

Commenting on the MOU, Dean Takahara said, “We are thrilled to have this MOU signed with the APO. I hope that we will be able to cooperate in various ways, including students’ engagement in the APO’s operations as interns. We are looking forward to developing a strong, long-lasting relationship with the APO.”

Under the MOU, the two organizations will participate jointly in conferences, workshops, training programs, and seminars. A key component of the MOU is the APO internship program to provide students from GraSPP with policy-oriented learning opportunities to gain experience through projects and research assignments.

About the APO

The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) is an intergovernmental organization committed to improving productivity in the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 1961, the APO contributes to the sustainable socioeconomic development of the region through policy advisory services, acting as a think tank, and undertaking smart initiatives in the industry, agriculture, service, and public sectors. The APO is shaping the future of the region by assisting member economies in formulating national strategies for enhanced productivity and through a range of institutional capacity-building efforts, including research and centers of excellence in member countries.

The current APO members are: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Republic of China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

About GraSPP

The Graduate School of Public Policy of The University of Tokyo (GraSPP) was established in 2004 as a professional graduate school aiming to foster public policy professionals. GraSPP trains students so that they are able to identify issues confronting modern society as well as to plan, implement, and evaluate public policies to cope with such issues from a global perspective. GraSPP aspires to transform students into experts ready to serve as public officials who are capable of communicating and consensus building.



Photo caption

(L–R) APO Secretary-General Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn and GraSPP Dean Akio Takahara exchanging the MOU document on cooperation to achieve the SDGs.

Click [here](#) to download the photo.

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