

## Information security management systems: creating awareness

While aiming to achieve global competitiveness, business drivers have recognized the need for protection of information assets from external attacks and internal abuses. In a competitive environment where information systems are business enhancers, awareness is the starting point for a stronger information security culture. To improve awareness of the importance of information security management systems (ISMS) in protecting valuable business assets while improving productivity, 21 participants attended a training course on ISMS based on the ISO 27000 series organized by the APO and the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, Government of Indonesia. The training course was held in Bekasi, Indonesia, 17–21 October 2011.

Training sessions focused on the practical know-how and skills related to an ISMS utilizing the plan-do-check-act cycle, ISMS controls and requirements, and the role of each employee in effectively planning and implementing ISMS internal auditing through a role-playing exercise. All sessions were supported by two international experts from India. The participants also visited PT. Panasonic Gobel Energy Indonesia (PEGGI) to observe the best ISMS practices for high-level protection of sensitive information assets. PEGGI President Director Mitsutoshi Shigeta warmly welcomed the group and said that the company would be “happy to share good practices to promote ISMS, a key to successful business operations, with friends from the Asia-Pacific region.”



*Training course experts and participants.*

All participants had a working understanding of ISMS, and many had completed the 2010 APO e-learning course on the topic. Sri Lankan participant Dhanushka L. Amadoru, who led IT-related matters at Sri Lanka Telecom Services Ltd., said that attending this training course was the first key step to the successful implementation of an ISMS and “definitely better than only attending the e-learning course.” He added that the training course gave an opportunity to gain practical ISMS skills and knowledge together with hands-on experience in planning, implementing, and reviewing activities related to ISMS internal auditing. All participants prepared action plans to promote and/or improve the ISMS in their organizations. 🌀