

10th annual GPAC meeting confirms continued support for Green Productivity

The 10th annual meeting of the Green Productivity Advisory Committee (GPAC) was held in Tokyo, 24 February 2012. The GPAC comprises high-level representatives from over 60 leading Japanese corporations that have demonstrated excellence and innovation in environmental products, technologies, and services and supported the APO's GP activities in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting was chaired by Teisuke Kitayama, Chairman of the Board of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.

In his opening remarks, Chairperson Kitayama stated that he had witnessed how the APO's GP activities contributed to international cooperation in the Japanese business sector during the four years he had been involved in the GPAC. He added that GP was imperative in efforts to improve resource productivity and efficiency.

The annual meeting focused on three agenda items. The first was confirmation of the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons. Current Chairperson Kitayama and Vice-Chairpersons Yukio Yanase, Senior Advisor of ORIX Corporation; Hajime Bada, President and CEO of JFE Holdings, Inc.; Takashi Yamagishi, Senior Executive Advisor of Teijin Limited; Professor Ryoichi Yamamoto, Emeritus Professor of the University of Tokyo; and Tsuneaki Taniguchi, Special Adviser to the Japan Productivity Center, agreed to serve an additional term (2012–14), and the meeting unanimously confirmed their reappointment.

The second item was the flagship *Eco-products Directory* series published by the APO in cooperation with the GPAC since 2004 to publicize eco-products and -services available in the Asia-Pacific. GPAC Vice-Chairperson Yamamoto stressed the importance of efforts like the *Eco-products Directory* which help businesses and the public respond to climate change.



GPAC Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons for 2012–14: (L–R) APO Secretary-General Yamazaki, Vice-Chairperson Yamagishi, Vice-Chairperson Bada, Chairperson Kitayama, Vice-Chairperson Yanase, Vice-Chairperson Yamamoto, and Vice-Chairperson Taniguchi.

The third agenda item was a briefing on another flagship project, the Eco-products International Fairs (EPIFs). An update on preparations for the 8th EPIF in Singapore including the venue (Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre) and timing (14–16 March 2013) was given by Michael Ho, Honorary Chairman of the Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore, and Jan Tan, Director of Enterprise Promotion Centres Pte. Ltd. GPAC Vice Chairperson Yamagishi commented that the EPIF is an effective platform to create networks of green businesses, for large corporations and SMEs alike.

The meeting unanimously agreed to support the APO's GP Program, including the two flagship projects. Chairperson Kitayama stressed that both were necessary to respond to the needs of business sectors in Japan and the Asia-Pacific as they face various environmental challenges due to rapid changes in global economic dynamics. 