

## Greenhouse gas emission reduction

Climate change experts, scientists, engineers, and policymakers from 12 countries gathered in Taipei for the multicountry observational study mission on Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction, 1–5 October, organized by the APO in association with the Taiwan Environment Management Association and China Productivity Center. They discussed the impact of greenhouse gases (GHGs) on the global climate, identified methods for the reduction of GHG emissions, and examined policy instruments to promote GHG emission reductions among industries and municipalities.

The generation of GHGs is responsible for climate change. The earth's average temperature is expected to rise by as much as 6.4°C by the end of this century. Sea levels are predicted to rise by 59 cm due to steady melting of ice in the Arctic and Antarctic. The situation appears grim. Recognizing the urgent need to raise awareness of this issue among member countries, the APO has organized several events and taken follow-up actions based on the outcomes of previous projects. It also published the manual *Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Estimation and Reduction*, available for downloading at [www.apo-tokyo.org](http://www.apo-tokyo.org).

Dhirendra Kumar, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change expert who facilitated the discussions, said that, “The countries of the world have recognized the need for concerted and increased action to combat climate change. That is the challenge. There are hopeful signs in the ongoing international negotiations, in the tools that countries have developed, such as the clean development mechanism and joint implementation, and in the great deal of work

being done at the international, regional, and local levels.” Deputy Executive Director Heinrich W. Wyes of the Central Asia Regional Environment Centre, Kazakhstan, stressed the need for immediate action emphasizing that, “Climate change needs to be tackled in an intersectoral matter, encompassing all sectors of society. Beyond being a challenge, addressing climate change provides also opportunities, in particular for the private sector, to transform economies toward a green growth development path.”

The mission members made technical field visits to the Industrial Technology Research Institute, Central Taiwan Science Park, AU Optronics Corporation, Taiwan Power Company Taichung Power Plant, and Taipei 101, the world's tallest green, energy-efficient building, to observe and acquire firsthand information on GHG emission reduction measures taken and best practices by the government and companies in the ROC. Participant Deepak Lal from Fiji acknowledged that, “This mission exposed the participants to so many advanced technologies to reduce GHGs that all of us were overwhelmed.” 🌍



*Mission participants engrossed in developing GHG emission reduction action plans and recommendations for governments.*