



Asian Productivity Organization (APO)
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Press Release

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MOFA grant helps APO draft productivity master plans for Bangladesh and Fiji

Suva/Dhaka/Tokyo: The Asian Productivity Organization (APO), under a special cash grant from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), has drafted national productivity master plans for Bangladesh and Fiji. The master plans were released to the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations of Fiji on 13 June 2019 and to the Ministry of Industries of Bangladesh on 22 July 2019. Workshops were subsequently organized on 14 June in Suva and 23–25 July in Dhaka to orient representatives of key institutions on the plan contents and how they can be put into practice.

During the handover ceremony in Dhaka on 22 July, APO Secretary-General Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn stated that the agility–productivity–innovation nexus should form the core of national sustainable productivity initiatives. He emphasized that productivity itself was “never enough in a world of constant change and uncertainty” and that the Governments of Bangladesh and Fiji needed to become resilient to achieve sustainability while meeting their national development goals.

The focus of the master plan initiative is tailoring efforts to meet the current and future needs of individual members, while expanding the APO’s policy advisory services. After consultations with government units at various levels and thorough review by key stakeholders, the master plans can be adopted as part of national productivity policies or used as drafts for the development of future guideline documents.



Photo caption:

APO Secretary-General Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn (R) and Fiji’s Minister of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Parveen Kumar at the ceremony in Suva, 13 June 2019.



Photo caption:

APO Secretary-General Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn (R) handing over the National Productivity Master Plan 2021–2030 to Bangladesh’s Minister of Industries Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun in Dhaka, 22 July 2019. (Photo: Press Information Department in Bangladesh)

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.

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