



Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

Name of publication: Taiwan Today (17 June 2013, Republic of China)

Posted on: 18 June 2013

Page no.: <http://www.taiwantoday.tw/ct.asp?xItem=206418&ctNode=445>

APO green productivity center launches in Taipei



MOFA Deputy Minister Vanessa Yea-ping Shih, (fifth right) and APO Taiwan Director Rock Hsu (fifth left) appear with officials and dignitaries at the inauguration of the Center of Excellence on Green Productivity June 17 in Taipei City. (Staff photo/Grace Kuo)

Publication Date: 06/17/2013

Source: [Taiwan Today](#)

By Grace Kuo

Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organization inaugurated its Center of Excellence on Green Productivity in Taipei City June 17, paving the way for Taiwan to showcase its sectorwide capabilities on the international stage.

“We expect the center to assist with establishing a regional green business value chain and expanding Taiwan’s advantages in technology transfer, further boosting our green productivity,” ROC Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vanessa Yea-ping Shih said.

As one of the founders of APO, Taiwan has actively participated in relevant events and witnessed the socioeconomic development of member countries, Shih said.

The MOFA has always upheld the principle of meaningful participation for Taiwan in international organizations, she added.

Established in 1961, the APO aims to contribute to the sustainable socioeconomic development of the Asia-Pacific through enhancing productivity.

Echoing Shih’s remarks, APO Secretary-General Ryuichiro Yamazaki said the launch of the center is a milestone because many governments, nongovernmental organizations and industries are looking for green solutions to current challenges.

In providing solutions, the center will help focus the world’s attention on Taiwan as a base for APO operations, he said.

Rock Hsu, president of New Taipei City-headquartered China Productivity Center, said the economy and climate change affect industrial development and represent the pulse of the society.

How to balance environmental protection and economic development has become an issue that needs to be addressed, said Hsu, who doubles as Taiwan APO director.

According to an official with the Council of Agriculture, the center will publish a handbook on agriculture, business and service industries, enabling readers to easily understand supply and management procedures.

"A database of experts in the three fields will also be set up to allow members to search for consultants," the official said, adding that the center is also a platform for economies to share experiences and policies in agriculture, business and service industries.

"We hope to encourage international exchanges, disseminate knowledge on green concepts to strengthen environmental protection, and bridge business opportunities for green equipment and technologies."

In addition, the APO's Eco-Products International Fair will be held for the first time in Taipei City March 13-16, 2014. Initiated in 2004, the show is the largest and longest-running green exhibition of its kind in Asia. (JSM)

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