



Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

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Sri Lanka to host APO's 55th WSM tomorrow in Colombo

They are from Havana, Guatemalan Press.

ASIAN Productivity Organization, based in Tokyo, Japan, has selected Sri Lanka as the host country for the 55th Work Shop Meeting of Heads of National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) and National Productivity Secretariats (NPSs) of member countries to be held from 21 to 23 October.

Accordingly, around 60 foreign participants from member countries are expected to attend this biennial WSM event of the year at the Hilton Hotel, Colombo.

The main objective of this year's WSM organized by the APO is to discuss overall strategies of the APO, including assistance and strengthening NPOs and NPSs and designing and planning of dedicated programs and projects to improve productivity in the fields of production activities and agriculture in member countries.

Eleventh Heads of NPOs and NPSs, 15 participants representing the sector of agriculture and 20 consultants from member countries of the APO are expected to meet at this WSM in Colombo on Tuesday.

Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning Dr. Sarath Amarasena will be the Chief Guest of the event which will be held with the participation of Minister of Productivity Promotion Dushan Segaram and the APO Delegation headed by its Secretary General, Mari Arano.

The opportunity to host this international WSM event is also a landmark event Sri Lanka has received in promoting the country as the main business hub of the region under the Mahinda Chinthana visionary development program of President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

APO is an international institution that works with the mission to contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development of Asia and the Pacific through enhancing productivity with the vision to be the leading international organization in productivity enhancement, training APO executives to be more productive and competitive by 2020.

APO membership is open to countries in Asia and the Pacific which are members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. At present, 20 countries that include Bangladesh, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, P.R. Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea Republic of, Viet, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam have been granted the APO membership.

The APO comprises the Governing Body (GB), the National Productivity Organizations and the Secretariats (NPOs and NPSs) and the Secretariat which is headed by a Secretary General. At present, Mari Arano

Two-member Sri Lankan delegation that represented Sri Lanka - Rajaniv-Chief of Sri Lanka The Tourism Board, the Honorable Pema and Senior Professor of the Educational Programs Division of GLOBE South Sri Lanka Association with their APO Secretary General of the APO Headquarter of the Multinational WSM on 21st October in a meeting in Tokyo, and productivity in agriculture for rural mass practitioners organized by the APO held in Japan.

J.M. Thilaka Jayawardena who serves the Director of Industry Department of the APO in the Sri Lanka and the first ever non-Japanese citizen to be a Director of the APO during its history of nearly 50 years of implementation since the APO was established on 11 May 1961.

APO projects cover the industry, service and agriculture sectors. They provide practical training through a combination of lectures of experts, field visits for observation of actual applications and country reports by participants for the sharing of experience. Participants represent diverse groups of productivity stakeholders who create multiplier effects by disseminating newly acquired knowledge to others in member countries.

Two representatives from the international travel and tour organizer Sri Lanka The Tourism Board (SLTB) and Sri Lanka Rajapaksa Corporation (SLRJC) represented Sri Lanka at the most recent seven day Multinational Development Study Mission (DSM) on best practices in promoting innovation and productivity in agriculture for rural mass practitioners organized by the APO held in Japan last month.

The two-member delegation from Sri Lanka is now engaged in post publishing activities at this stage, to accurately and timely acknowledge especially the policy makers and executive implementers through press and electronic media, of how such innovative agro systems and methodologies could be rightly identified, implemented and utilized in Sri Lanka consistently with the facts of geographical areas, topography, climate, socio-economic of the people in different regions and socio-cultural aspect in mind and how such practices could be implemented and utilized despite the challenge of the land requirement especially when it comes to metropolitan and ruralized industry in Sri Lanka.

The delegation through its post publishing activities in the press and electronic media in sharing what was learned, shared and experienced in Japan, would also be publishing a series of feature stories, news releases, reports and materials in their respective media to continuously encourage people in both domestic and industrial levels and especially the young generation engaged in electronics, about the Japanese innovations of agro-technology readily available to utilize in agriculture industry and related sectors among future prosperity of the nation.

Josefina Cruz Bernardo serves the Director Agriculture Department of the APO.

APO Agriculture Department Director Josefin Cruz Bernardo

The Governing Body (GB) of the APO and it is composed of one government-appointed Director from each member country. The GB meets annually to receive the Secretary General's annual report and the auditor's financial report and decide on the budget, strategy, structure and policies.

Each member country of the APO designates a national body to be in NPO or NPS and they act as the APO's planning and implementing agencies and coordinate productivity projects funded by the governments. Each year, the APO organizes a Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs and NPSs to evaluate the previous year's projects, confirm the program for the next year and discuss on productivity issues and emerging needs of members.

The APO Secretariat is the executive arm of the organization and is headed by the Secretary General. It carries out the decisions of the Governing Body (GB) and it does the operative and coordination with NPOs, undertakes planning, preparation, coordination and implementation of projects.

J.M. Thilaka Jayawardena, the first Sri Lankan and the first ever non-Japanese citizen to be a Director of the APO during its history of nearly 50 years of implementation.