Green Productivity and energy efficiency

The unprecedented rate of industrial development in Asia in the last decade has increased global energy demand, which is estimated to double by 2030. High energy demand means high consumption of fossil fuels, resulting in increased generation of greenhouse gases. Consequently, alternative energy sources must be sought or energy efficiency increased. The APO held a workshop on Green Productivity and Energy Efficiency in New Delhi, 12–16 March, which was attended by 23 energy professionals from 15 member countries.

The topics discussed were energy efficiency applications in thermal systems, compressed air and chilled water systems, energy-efficient technology for small-scale industries, biomass energy, and calculation of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels. Another important issue was energy-efficiency labels, which fall into two types: endorsement labels and comparative labels. Endorsement labels attest that a product meets certain criteria, and comparative labels allow consumers to compare energy use among all available models to make informed choices. Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of China, Singapore, and India already have energy-labeling programs, and other countries are moving in this direction. The concept of energy service companies (ESCOs) in the Republic of China, which provide energy and financial services to clients, invest in energy-efficiency measures, and then share the resulting savings, was explained. The ESCO model hinges on partnerships among government, banks/financial institutions, associations of ESCOs, and end users.

The participants visited Deepak Metal, a foundry that changed its fuel from coke to natural gas, thereby improving both energy efficiency and environmental performance.