

## People behind the scenes:

### Jayani Lasanthi Mendis Jayasekara, Sri Lanka

**T**he recent Governing Body meeting (GBM) held in Sri Lanka in April received high praise, not only for its contents but also for its "grand and colorful manner," the presence of high-profile VIPs, and widespread publicity. This was only possible because the people behind the scenes had pulled out all the stops to make it so. This month's person behind the scenes, Productivity Development Assistant Jayani Lasanthi Mendis Jayasekara, National Productivity Secretariat (NPS), Sri Lanka, was one of the outstanding NPS team members who made the event such a memorable success.

The usual scene at such times in the GBM Secretariat room involves Secretariat staff staying up until all hours preparing the proceedings of the day, and NPO staff members waiting in the corners for their turn with the material so that they can collate and copy it. It is a tiring process with no time for laughter. "The atmosphere was totally different this time," said one officer, thanks to the infectious laughter of Jayani. "Jayani proved how one person can lift the spirits of others with cheerful laughter."

On the second day of the meeting, she worked until a little past 03:00 and was at the venue again at 07:00, refreshed, immaculately coiffed, and radiantly garbed in traditional Sri Lankan dress, making sure that the seats

and name plates were in order. Her smiling demeanor showed no sign of stress as she strolled around the cavernous basement hallway of the Hilton Hotel checking one thing after another. According to Director Upali Marasinghe, APO Liaison Officer for Sri Lanka, "Jayani is an incredibly dedicated worker who does her best to finish the assigned work on time even at the expense of not having much time to go out with other colleagues. Punctuality and commitment to her work are her hallmarks." One of her colleagues attested that, "Jayani is a very capable lady who manages her time at work and at home very well." Jayani, who has worked for the NPS for four years, also enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter.

Jayani said that the APO officers and support staff she worked with during the GBM were "very cordial, supportive, and energetic" without acknowledging that much of their energy radiated from her. Studies have shown that laughter improves brain function and reduces stress. Laughter seems to be effective for Jayani. 🌀

