

Second APO-private sector GP partnership meeting

On 1 November, senior representatives of 18 leading Japanese manufacturing companies met in the APO Secretariat to review and explore further the APO plan for more intensive private-sector participation in the APO Green Productivity (GP) Program. This was the second meeting. The first was held in June involving 16 companies (see *APO News* August 2002 issue).

APO Secretary-General Takashi Tajima gave a briefing on the APO's participation at the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. According to him, the role of private-sector corporations in sustainable development is shifting from the awareness to the involvement phase. Mr. Tajima further commented that the experience of Japanese companies in greening the supply chain is both exemplary as well as catalytic in developing an environment-friendly manufacturing base in the APO region. He expressed the hope that the sharing of this Japanese experience at the Manila APO world conference on GP to be held in this December would encourage other APO member countries to promote further and establish green supply chains.

Three examples of "greening supply chains" were presented during the meeting. Kiyoto Furata, General Manager of the Environment Management and Engineering Center of Canon, spoke on the Japan Green Procurement Survey Standardization Initiative. The Seiko Epson Corporation's initiative in greening the supply chain and procurement was presented by the Director of its Global Environment Policy Office, Nobuo Hashizume. Tamae Kobayashi, Executive Officer of the Environmental Division of The Seiyu Ltd., shared the experience of the company in establishing a green supply chain in the retail business.



Secretary-General Tajima addressing the meeting

Professor Ryoichi Yamamoto, Director, Center for Collaboration Research and Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo, moderated the discussions. He said that the APO, with the assistance of the NPOs, must endeavor to foster as many green vendors as possible in its member countries and to generate an understanding that greening the supply chain creates business opportunities for the local SMEs. He also pointed out the urgent need to establish a network for the dissemination of information and a database on greening supply chains.

One delegate from a company that is a member of the Green Procurement Network (GPN) informed the meeting that the GPN is planning to develop a world network on green purchasing and that the APO as an international organization could help by standardizing the database and guidelines. Other suggestions made at the meeting included the organizing of a survey on green procurement practices in APO member countries and taking measures to enable SMEs to employ emerging environmental protection techniques and technologies. 