

Introducing the APO Secretariat (IV)

Starting from the June issue this year, on a bimonthly basis, we have been introducing you to the APO Secretariat and the people behind it. So far, we have looked at the work of three departments: Administration and Finance, Research and Planning, and Industry. The Agriculture Department takes the spotlight in this issue.

Agriculture Department

The work of this department represents an area that is of growing importance to the APO. Most member countries have a large agriculture sector comprising agriculture, fishery, forestry, and related agribusiness industries. They play a significant role in providing employment, developing regional industries, and managing natural resources. To improve the productivity of these industries and the quality of rural life, the Agriculture Department organizes activities in the following thrust areas: Sustainable development in agriculture; Processing and marketing of agricultural products; and Integrated community development. The activities are categorized into surveys, symposia, study meetings, training courses, seminars, observational study missions, and demonstration projects.

The department's current concerns are enhancing the competitiveness of the agriculture sector by meeting the changing demands of consumers and the global market; ensuring that this sector grows in harmony with societal values



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and expectations, while conserving natural resources and protecting the environment; and building the capacity of rural communities to improve the people's living standards.

The Agriculture Department is headed by Director Kunio Tsubota. He is assisted by three officers—Dr. Manuel S.J. de Leon, Dr. Muhammad Saeed, and Akira Munakata—and three general staff—Yumiko Nishio, Chihiro Sakaguchi, and Satomi Kozuka. 🌀