



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR CORPORATE INNOVATION

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Knowledge management is currently considered a key to future business growth, and knowledge will be a main contributor to productivity. For business enterprises, ideas, know-how, the accumulated experiences of workers, and corporate vision and culture are vital to their success. Nurturing these intangible assets within an organization and sharing them with workers to enhance competitiveness and productivity are the essence of knowledge management. The importance of knowledge management is reflected in its designation as a thrust area of the APO in 2001.

To help business organizations in member countries strengthen their competitiveness and improve their productivity through knowledge management, the APO adopted the theme “Knowledge management for corporate innovation” for its 2002 Top Management Forum, the 18th in the series. This publication is a report on the proceedings of the meeting and a compilation of presentations made by the resource speakers, most of whom are senior executives of world-class Japanese corporations and academic institutions.

The topics dealt with by the resource speakers included: Corporate knowledge and management innovation; Sharing of tacit knowledge empowers the sales force; The knowledge revolution; Dynamic knowledge-based firms; Knowledge sharing and creation in NTT DoCoMo; Co-creation; Management innovation and IT support; and Leadership in knowledge management.



ENHANCING SME COMPETITIVENESS IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION

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Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) play a predominant role in most, if not all, economies. This is not only because of their number, variety, and involvement in all sectors of the economy. Their contributions to regional development within a country,

their supporting role to the larger industries, and their capacity for innovations are widely acknowledged.

Recognizing the importance of SMEs in the economic development of its member countries, the APO has designated their development as one of its thrust areas. In line with this policy and as part of its 40th anniversary commemorative program, the APO in collaboration with the National Productivity Council of India organized the International Forum on SMEs in New Delhi in April 2001, with the theme “Accelerating growth and enhancing competitiveness in the knowledge economy.”

This publication provides the conclusions and recommendations of the forum and the text of the base paper on “Global development and small and medium enterprises” as well as those of 22 presentations made at the forum. The book gives important insights into the critical infrastructure issues for the development of SMEs, particularly those relating to strategic alliances, technology absorption, innovative financing, and human resources development.

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