

Subregional GP project for six NPOs

The APO has organized Green Productivity (GP) promotion missions to most of its member countries in the past, and subsequently GP programs have been launched by many NPOs. However, some NPOs have yet to embark on their own GP programs. The Environment Department of the APO Secretariat therefore designed a subregional project to help NPOs from Bangladesh, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to learn from the experiences of others, primarily from the National Productivity Council (NPC) of India as the regional mentor, and jump-start their GP programs. Initially, the six participating NPOs are expected to implement a GP demonstration project (GPDP) during 2004 in an area that is strategically important for the sustainable economic development of their respective countries as well as for the subregion.

To launch this program, a planning meeting of the participating NPOs and their relevant partner organizations was organized in New Delhi, India, 17–20 May 2004, in collaboration with the NPC India. Sixteen representatives attended. Experts from the NPOs of India, Malaysia, and Vietnam were deputed to this meeting to share their experiences in launching and implementing GP programs.

The meeting also included presentations from the six NPOs on their strategic plans and GPDP proposals. The presentations made by the NPO representatives on the SWOT analysis of GP activities and programs in their respective countries, along with strengths and weaknesses expected to affect GPDP implementation, were peer reviewed and then deliberated on by the meeting.

Another important part of the meeting was the debut demonstration of the APO's e-Learning Portal. APO Senior IT Program Officer Mukesh Bhattarai made a presentation via videoconferencing and the Internet from the APO Secretariat in Tokyo. This successful demonstration revealed the numerous useful features of the system, which can greatly facilitate inexpensive networking among NPOs and between NPOs and the Secretariat and the organization of future e-learning projects.

The meeting clarified the current situation with regard to linkages between the productivity movement and environmental management in the host-cum-mentor India, the six participating member countries, and the subregion. It provided a platform for strategic planning for GP promotion, demonstration, and dissemination in each country and at the subregional level. Experience sharing with other NPOs on specific issues related to GPDP planning, proposal preparation, and project management was an integral element of the meeting.

After the SWOT analysis and presentations, the participating NPO representatives expressed interest in initiating GPDPs in the following areas deemed important to sustainable national economic development:

1) Bangladesh will focus on the areas of biogas and renewable energy sources in communities.

2) In Laos, biogas and renewable energy sources in communities (especially using gasifier technology) GPDPs would also be feasible.

3) The National Productivity and Development Center of Mongolia expressed interest in a GPDP on appropriate technology for water hardness removal.

4) A GPDP in the dairy industry was suggested by Nepal.

5) Pakistan needed more time to select a possible topic, since only one representative was able to attend the meeting, although microhydro power plants were identified as a potential project area.

6) The Sri Lankan representatives indicated that a GPDP on value creation from municipal solid waste with a further link to rural eco-business development would be useful.

The APO Secretariat is now undertaking follow-up discussions with the six NPOs to turn their project concepts into concrete plans for implementation in coming months. 