



Asian Productivity Organization (APO)
Leaf Square Hongo Building, 2F
1-24-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku
Tokyo 113-0033, Japan
www.apo-tokyo.org

Press Release

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Examining women's role in a productive workforce

TOKYO—As an opportunity to examine how to harness the untapped potential of the female labor force for more inclusive socioeconomic development and increasing productivity, the Asian Productivity Organization, with support from the Government of Japan, will hold a Conference on Female Workforce Participation and Productivity Enhancement in Japan, 5 to 7 April 2016, at the APO Secretariat. Twenty-five representatives from 17 APO members, representing policymakers, government officers, and academics involved in promoting gender mainstreaming, workforce planning, and gender-related labor issues will attend to share experiences and exchange information on policies encouraging women's participation in the workforce, their trends and impact on productivity enhancement, as well as solutions and proposals for overcoming challenges in achieving positive socioeconomic performance through increasing women's presence in formal employment.

The three-day conference will consist of keynote presentations and panel discussions on best practices and success stories of gender mainstreaming, illustrating how women can take advantage of economic opportunities to create more businesses in the private sector, stronger communities, and sustainable growth. Scheduled speakers include experts from Hosei University and the Research Institute for Women and Careers in Japan, Institute of Economic Growth in India, and Louisiana State University in the USA, as well as independent consultants from Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

For details please contact:
Yumiko Yamashita/Yoko Fujimoto
Information & Public Relations Unit
Tel: 03-3830-0411; Fax: 03-5840-5322
e-Mail: yyamashita@apo-tokyo.org/yfujimoto@apo-tokyo.org
Website: <http://www.apo-tokyo.org>

About the APO

The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) is the sole nonprofit international organization in the Asia-Pacific devoted to productivity enhancement. Established in 1961 as a regional intergovernmental organization, the APO contributes to the sustainable socioeconomic development of the Asia-Pacific through productivity enhancement. The current membership comprises 20 economies. Three strategic directions guide the APO: strengthen NPOs and promote the development of SMEs and communities; catalyze innovation-led productivity growth; and promote Green Productivity. The main activities of the APO are capacity building of institutions and human resources development.