



Asian Productivity Organization (APO)

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Press Release

29 July 2016

APO and CTA sign agreement to train Medellín productivity practitioners

- Under the agreement, the APO will train professionals from the CTA and Medellín, Colombia, in applications of productivity and quality management techniques.
- The agreement follows a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in December by the APO and CTA to promote productivity and innovation.



APO Secretary-General Mari Amano (L) and CTA Productivity Deputy Director Jaime Arboleda Palacio exchanging the MOU documents on a jointly organized training course for the development of CTA productivity practitioners and independent consultants in Medellín.

TOKYO: The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) and Science and Technology Centre of Antioquia (CTA) signed an agreement to conduct training course for the development of CTA productivity practitioners and independent consultants in Medellín. Under the agreement, the APO will help develop competencies in promoting and applying productivity and quality management techniques to benefit organizations and industries.

The course in Medellín will enable participants to identify, use, and explain productivity approaches and tools while adopting an integrated productivity framework for diagnosing productivity issues and devising and implementing solutions. The training modules will be in a training-of-trainers format.

The agreement follows the MOU signed by the APO and CTA in December 2015 to strengthen cooperation and exchanges between the two institutions and to promote productivity and

innovation. The MOU set out the general collaborative framework with the support of the Mayor's Office of Medellín through its International Cooperation Agency.

APO Secretary-General Mari Amano hoped that the training course for the CTA would open doors to similar successful initiatives in non-APO member economies. "The APO is honored to support the CTA and Medellín City to become pioneers of the productivity movement in Colombia and Latin American countries," he said, adding that the active participation of CTA representatives had provided learning opportunities for participants from Colombia as well as APO member countries.

Highlighting the importance of the agreement, Secretary of Economic Development, Municipality of Medellín, María Fernanda Galeano commented that the Municipality of Medellín appreciated the support and hospitality offered by the APO. "Medellín is in the midst of a transition and hopes to move forward through collaboration with the APO. Medellín is planning to organize an Eco Fair next year," she announced. CTA Productivity Deputy Director Jaime Arboleda Palacio pointed out that this was just the beginning of the new relationship as defined by the December MOU. "We hope to see a larger role of the CTA and APO in driving productivity in Colombia and look forward to more such initiatives," he stressed.

The agreement was officially signed by APO Secretary-General Amano and CTA Productivity Deputy Director Arboleda Palacio. Also present on the occasion were Secretary of the Government of Medellín Luis Santiago Gómez; Medellín Secretary of Economic Development Galeano; Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Colombia in Japan, Alejandro Posada; and Regional Cooperation and Communications Officer, Embassy of Colombia, Paula Esguerra. The APO was represented by Directors Sherman Loo, Administration and Finance Department; Joselito Bernardo, Research and Planning Department; Dr. Muhammad Saeed, Agriculture Department; and Hikaru Horiguchi, Industry Department. The training course will be fully funded by the CTA.

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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.