



Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

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Asian productivity body aiming to boost output

Times Reporters

The 60th session of the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) Governing Body being hosted by Laos in Vientiane from May 8-10 will promote government and business sector productivity through new technologies, systems, techniques and innovation.

The meeting will be a good opportunity to review progress and achievements last year and discuss strengthening collective efforts for greater success in 2018 and beyond.

Challenges include changing and complex regional and international contexts with APO members to objectively review the



Dr Santhi Kanoktanaporn.

Roadmap to achieve the APO Vision 2020.

This is the organisation's

first ever highest-level meeting in Vientiane since Laos became a member in 2002

with the SMEs Promotion Department of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce acting as coordinator with the National Productivity Organisation (NPO).

“The APO has gradually evolved, gained consistent achievements and stayed relevant as an inter-governmental regional organisation spearheading productivity enhancement to assist its members in their efforts to achieve development goals,” APO Secretary General Dr Santhi Kanoktanaporn said at the press conference yesterday.

To increase productivity in Laos, the government should create a specific master plan

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for development by following new technology and growing the economy as well as trying to learn new experiences from other countries, he advised.

“As we are aware, new technologies and innovation are important tools in improving productivity for competition in the region and globally,” Dr Santhi said.

Countries around the world are using technologies to increase productivity and better government management systems to smooth operations in order to reduce capital, labour force requirements and increase capacity against competition, he added.

Laos has received continued support and assistance in APO's efforts towards productivity improvement in the country for more than a decade, according to the APO Director for Laos.

Support and assistance include aiding a number of SMEs to successfully apply productivity enhancement tools and techniques, as well as international standards

through participation in demonstration projects, study tours, seminars and training programmes.

The organisation will focus on activities such as promoting cooperation between the government, educational institutions and the business sector in developing training techniques.

It also aims to facilitate SMEs to register intellectual property, promote access to quality and standards certification, provide consultation and training courses to update the management standards of SMEs, reveal quality and productivity through different activities, and create innovation systems and support funding to improve technology in SMEs.

The Asian Productivity Organisation, a regional intergovernmental organisation, has been serving its 20 member countries in the Asia-Pacific since 1961 by supporting productivity improvement to enhance socio-economic development.