

**57th APO Workshop Meeting of Heads of National Productivity Organizations**  
19–21 October 2016, Putrajaya, Malaysia

**Welcome Remarks**

**APO Director for Malaysia**  
**YB Tan Sri Azman Hashim**

Honorable Dato' Sri Ong Ka Chuan, 2nd Minister of International Trade and Industry;

Honorable Dr. Santi Kanoktanaporn, Secretary-General of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO);

Distinguished Heads of National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) and APO Delegates;

Observers;

YB Dato' Mohd. Razali Hussain, Director General of the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC); and

Ladies and Gentlemen:

*Salam Sejahtera* and a very good morning. I would like extend a warm welcome to all our international guests to Malaysia, and my appreciation goes to our Minister of International Trade and Industry, Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan, for gracing this occasion despite his busy schedule.

I would also like to welcome and congratulate Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn on his appointment as the new Secretary-General, as today marked his first official event as the Secretary-General of the APO. I wish more success coming to the APO under his leadership such as new, innovative revenue-generating programs, continuous effort in scouting for new member economies, engaging and collaborating more with other regional productivity bodies, and finally making the APO the leading international organization for productivity enhancement in the Asia-Pacific.

I am also pleased to welcome all APO delegates from 19 member countries, observers from various national agencies and international organizations, and APO Secretariat staff who are present here this morning. The MPC is honored to host the 57th Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs which starts from today until 21 October 2016. This meeting enables evaluation of the past year's projects, planning and confirming next year's projects, as well as deliberating on productivity issues and emerging needs of members.

I would like to congratulate the APO for its continuous efforts for making innovations in the delivery of programs and projects as well as introducing effective programs for the benefit of all participating countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, since 1983, Malaysia has been a member of the APO and ever since the MPC has been actively hosting and participating in APO programs and projects. This year

to date, a total of 290 Malaysian participants have attended more than 60 APO programs that were held by various NPOs including Malaysia. As for hosting activities, the MPC has conducted several programs for member countries in various areas. The most recent program successfully hosted by the MPC was the International Conference on Public-sector Productivity, attended by 240 international and local participants. Apart from that, the MPC also hosted about 13 other APO programs such as workshops, capacity-building programs, study missions, and meetings. The MPC in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture will also be organizing one agriculture program entitled Multicountry Observational Study Mission on Strengthening Public-Private-sector Partnerships in Developing Competitive Agribusiness, which will be held from 5 to 9 December 2016.

The APO has made significant contributions to the expansion of opportunities for cooperation and greater socioeconomic development of member countries including Malaysia. A recent significant achievement for Malaysia was the implementation of the Business Excellence Framework (BEF). The MPC has successfully leveraged the APO Center of Excellence on Business Excellence in Singapore to promote the BEF among all organizations to push for higher productivity in Malaysia. Close to 4,000 companies have successfully adopted the BEF since 2013.

Resilient productivity growth is a key driver for our nation's transformational journey toward a developed, high-income economy by the year 2020. The MPC as the productivity custodian in Malaysia assumes the principal role in facilitating both the public and private sectors to ensure that the business value chain is efficient and competitive. In this regard, the MPC has been mandated to review and recommend changes to existing regulations and policies with a view to removing or reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens and easing the way of doing business. At the same time, the MPC also works closely as a partner in programs such as lean management to improve business productivity.

I hope that all of you will have productive discussions over the next three days and that you will also take some time off to experience Kuala Lumpur's and Putrajaya's various attractions. I wish you all a pleasant, enjoyable stay in Malaysia.

Thank you.