

57th session of the APO Governing Body
27–29 April 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Opening Address
Acting APO Chair and APO Alternate Director for Pakistan
Khizar Hayat Khan

Fellow APO Directors,
Secretary-General Mari Amano,
Distinguished Guests, Advisers, and Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honored to be here today, as the Acting Chair of the APO, to welcome you to the inaugural session of the 57th Session of the APO Governing Body. APO Chair and APO Director for Nepal Jaya Mukunda Khanal is unable to be present today due to the catastrophic earthquake in Nepal. Our deepest condolences are extended to the families of those who lost their lives and our thoughts and prayers remain with the victims of the earthquake.

The 57th session of the APO Governing Body meeting must continue. We are honored to have with us Minister of Industry of Thailand Chakramon Phasukavanich and other dignitaries. We are grateful to the Government of Thailand for hosting this important meeting in Bangkok and sincerely appreciate the warm welcome and arrangements made by the Thailand Productivity Institute (FTPI).

In recent years, Asia-Pacific member economies have grown from strength to strength despite the global economic and financial crisis afflicting the world for several years now. As we strive to become more competitive and innovative, productivity enhancement remains even more relevant. The APO therefore still must continue making efforts to improve the productivity and competitiveness of its member countries.

This year's GBM has several important matters to discuss and decide. Among other agenda items, such as the annual report of the Secretary-

General, approval of the APO revised budget for 2016, report on the proposed roadmap to achieve the APO Vision 2020, and assessment of the proposals for new Centers of Excellence, we are also here to look ahead and share with fellow members the directions that our countries are taking to advance our economies and improve overall productivity. A lot has been achieved. A lot remains to be done. But I am confident that with our strong cooperation and commitment, we will overcome the challenges.

It has been a great honor for Pakistan and for me in particular to serve as the Acting APO Chair. I am thankful to the support from other member countries and the Secretariat.

I believe that this 57th GBM will be a great success. We are here to set the direction for the near future of APO, while not forgetting to enjoy the beautiful city of Bangkok. Once again, I would like to thank the host country Thailand and the staff of FTPI and APO Secretariat for working hard behind the scenes in preparation for this meeting.

Thank you.