

60th Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs

22–24 October 2019, Taipei, ROC

Welcome Remarks by APO Director for the ROC Sheng-Hsiung Hsu

Welcome Remarks

APO Secretary-General Dr. AKP Mochtan,
Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Mei-Hua Wang,
APO Member Country Delegates,
Distinguished Guests, and
Friends from the Media,

Good morning and welcome.

First, I would like to welcome everyone to the APO 60th Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs (WSM) organized by the APO and hosted by the ROC. This meeting is an important annual gathering for the APO to which member countries send agricultural and industrial officials. The two-day WSM has been planned by the APO Secretariat, during which time we will evaluate the execution of earlier APO programs, confirm upcoming projects, and discuss programs and promotional focuses for programs over the next two years. Some member countries will deliver related presentations. On the third day, we will visit a smart machinery enterprise and smart agriculture institution to review their operations and successes.

I am delighted to see almost 100 people in attendance today, including delegates from member countries and VIPs. In my capacity as the APO Director for the ROC, I would like to take this opportunity to once

again welcome and thank all of you for being here and very much hope that we can work together to promote APO programs and their execution.

The APO is a nonprofit, nonpolitical intergovernmental organization, and the ROC was one of its eight founding members. For many years, the ROC has actively enquired about holding the annual WSM. After much careful planning and considering details, it was agreed in 2018 that the ROC would host the 60th WSM. This is the first time that the ROC has held this annual meeting in the more than 58 years it has been an APO member. As such, the event is of particular note and importance.

In response to the various challenges the Asia-Pacific region could face, the APO has since its establishment actively sought to promote industrial transformation and upgrading in member countries. To that end, the organization has focused on regional economic promotion in member countries, researched industry trends and business management improvements, introduced advanced technology, and expanded benchmarking experience. Improvements in all of these areas strengthen industrial competitiveness and involve industry think tanks and policy promotion agencies to which member countries attach considerable importance. Every year, based on the economic needs of its members, the APO puts forward and reviews programs at the WSM, and dozens of these are implemented annually in various member countries.

For many years, the ROC has hosted seven to eight multicountry projects annually, more than any other APO member country. As a result, the country has also supported and worked closely with the APO in an effort to enhance productivity in the ROC and other member

countries as part of a broader effort to boost the sustainable economic development of the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, in 2013, the APO Center of Excellence on Green Productivity was established in the ROC. This brings together representatives of industry, government, academia, and research institutes in the ROC to create a green technology, value-added service platform and has achieved much over the past six years. In October 2018, with strong support from the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), a proposal to establish the APO Center of Excellence on Smart Manufacturing was approved by the Governing Body Meeting in April 2019.

The COE on Smart Manufacturing was set up at the CPC Central Regional Office in Taichung and officially launched by former APO Secretary-General Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn and Minister of Economic Affairs **Jong-Chin** Shen in August 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and note that the center has already launched a series of smart manufacturing promotional programs. In the future, it will help member countries introduce smart manufacturing and management models, thereby promoting technology transfers and enhancing the ability of SMEs in the Asia-Pacific to respond to rapidly changing international trends and improve their competitiveness.

I extend special thanks to the APO Secretariat for holding the 60th WSM in the ROC, as well as to the MOEA and MOFA for their guidance and assistance and to the delegates from APO member countries for their enthusiastic participation. In the future, the Office of the APO Director for the ROC will be even more active and make greater use of APO-promoted programs while it continues to assist and support government policies, strengthen resource integration, and expand program implementation by improving links among industry,

government, academia, and research. This will also make it easier to anticipate future industry developments and improve the international competitiveness of Taiwanese industry.

Finally, I would like once again to thank everyone here today for your support and participation. I very much hope that member country delegates will use the few days they have in the ROC to enjoy its excellent cuisine and culture. I also hope that the WSM is a big success and wish you all good health and happiness. Thank you.