

**56th Session of the APO Governing Body
15 April 2014, Hanoi, Vietnam**

Inaugural Address

**Vice Minister of Science and Technology
Tran Viet Thanh**

APO Chair,
APO Secretary-General Mari Amano,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor on behalf of the Ministry of Science and Technology to welcome the delegates from member countries of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), the APO Secretary-General, observers, and representatives of Vietnam's government departments, agencies, and the media attending this opening ceremony of the 56th Session of the APO Governing Body in Hanoi.

Vietnam is honored to be the host country of this important meeting where the representatives of APO members will determine the direction and way forward of the APO. On this occasion, I express gratitude for the valuable support of the APO and NPOs in the promotion of productivity activities in Vietnam in the past.

In recent years, the world economy has gone through a difficult period and is showing signs of recovery attributed to continued efforts to reform and restructure. For businesses, productivity, quality, and innovation are factors to help improve performance and competitive advantage in the domestic as well as international markets. I believe that the APO, which leads and coordinates activities to promote quality and productivity in the Asia-Pacific, will put forward innovative and appropriate strategies to support its members in a more effective way.

In the context of globalization and the ongoing development of information technology, communication and cooperation among the countries in the region and around the world have been changing a lot. Present here at the meeting today are representatives from various economies with different levels of development, but we do share the common goal of promoting economic and social development, building better lives through activities to improve productivity and quality, and achieving sustainable development. NPOs are in a position to improve capacity, coordinate team-building experts to provide tailored solutions for enterprises, and provide timely information for decision making at all levels.

Vietnam has been producing significant results in its governance and administrative reforms. The renovation of the growth model toward improved quality and productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness is one of the solutions in Vietnam's socioeconomic development strategy for the future. The national program on Enhancing the Productivity and Quality of Products and Goods of Vietnamese Enterprises by 2020 approved by the Prime Minister and being implemented by the Ministry of Science and Technology is a good example. We believe that Vietnam will actively contribute to the development of the region and will be ready to cooperate with other countries on all related issues, including sharing information and policy dialogues. We also expect to receive the support of the APO and member

countries in capacity building for professionals and sharing experience to apply solutions to improve productivity and quality.

The 56th Session of the APO Governing Body in Hanoi starting today will be a great platform for all members to discuss, agree, and approve plans, programs, and projects of the APO. Apart from the official agenda, the delegates will also have the opportunity to learn about the economic development, culture, society, and people of Vietnam.

With confidence in the contribution to and effectiveness of the APO in economic development in the area, I officially declare the opening of the 56th session of the Governing Body in Hanoi. I wish all of you good health and happiness, with a successful GBM.