

53rd Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs
23–25 October 2012, Bali, Indonesia

Inaugural Address

**H.E. Minister of Manpower and Transmigration of the
Republic of Indonesia Muhaimin Iskandar**

APO Secretary-General Ryuichiro Yamazaki,
Governor of Bali Province I. Made Mangku Pastika,
Dr. Serafin D. Talisayon, Professor of Technology Management Center, University of the Philippines,
Honorable Heads of NPOs,
Distinguished Delegates, Advisers, and Observers from APO Member Countries,
APO Secretariat Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all delegates, advisers, observers, and experts from APO member countries, as well as to APO Secretariat representatives, to Bali to attend this workshop meeting.

Nowadays, economic development is one of important factors that have changed the entire scenario of the social and cultural environment within a country. This situation has happened in the entire world and there are several issues that we must pay attention to. Therefore, we must increase our productivity and competitiveness through solid cooperation among APO countries. We appreciate the APO which has been significantly contributing to the socioeconomic development of countries in the Asia-Pacific region and helping strengthen national productivity organizations, particularly in the area of human capital development. The APO's programs have enhanced productivity in each member country and impacted regional economic development.

Over the years, however, the scope of productivity has widened to cover other determining factors, such as management, technology, knowledge, the environment, and community development. To strengthen further the growth momentum and ensure that productivity remains the catalyst to improve overall economic growth, Indonesia has undertaken various initiatives to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the nation. Among the initiatives identified are to improve the investment climate, intensify innovation, and increase productivity at all levels, as well as advancing education and training systems.

In the latest data for 2012 issued by the World Economic Forum, Indonesia currently ranks 50th out of 144 countries surveyed. It is a good opportunity for us to make some innovations and use creativity in order to create efficiencies, which can be done by improving productivity and competitiveness significantly. Therefore the cooperation between the APO and the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia is expected to increase Indonesia's competitiveness index in order to participate in the global free market. Our NPO in the ministry, the Directorate General of Training and Productivity Development, will continuously develop new productivity and innovation tools and processes to ensure its synergy and multiplier effects required for productivity in the country.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to express my gratitude to the APO, APO member country representatives, and the NPO of Indonesia Secretariat for their cooperation and support for this 53rd Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs. To all delegates and advisers, it is my fervent hope that your deliberations will be fruitful and bring substantial benefits to APO operations and development. I hope that all of you will have an opportunity to exchange information, ideas, and lay the groundwork for cultivating solid networking among APO member countries.

At the end of this Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs, I would like to invite all of you to disseminate and share all results of this event to all stakeholders concerned in your respective countries. All the best, and I hope you can follow all sessions of the 53rd Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs and discussions in the next four days. I wish you all a pleasant visit to this lovely province of Bali.

On that note, I take great pleasure in declaring this 53rd Workshop Meeting of Head of NPOs officially opened. Thank you, *terima kasih*.