

59th Session of the APO Governing Body
10–12 April 2017, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Inaugural Address

**Vice President and Head of the Administrative and Recruitment Organization of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
H.E. Jamshid Ansari**

Honorable Secretary-General;

Respected Directors of National Productivity Organizations of Member Countries;

Distinguished Guests; and

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be present at the supreme annual meeting of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), which hosts delegates from 19 member countries of the APO and their accompanying delegations. As the Vice President and Head of the Administrative and Recruitment Organization of the country, I am pleased that we have the honor of hosting you for the second time.

The vast and beautiful country of IR Iran with a heritage of thousands of years is one of the main birthplaces of human civilization. The valuable remaining historical and cultural heritage from millennia past reveals the attempts of the benevolent, peaceful, and wise people of the nation for the acquisition and dissemination of human knowledge and promotion of environmental, educational, economic, sanitation, and welfare indices. Attention to the concept of productivity in all fields throughout history and through the remaining heritage of social life in this land is particularly noticeable. In religious and Islamic teaching, it has been repeatedly emphasized that “If you do something, you should do it the best way.” Therefore, our view toward the subject of productivity is also a religious view, emphasized in our national and Islamic culture.

During the past few years, the subject of productivity and the necessity for its promotion have been emphasized in many of the meta policies of IR Iran. Among these, the Meta Policies of Formulation of Economic, Cultural and Social Development Plans, Meta Policies of the Administrative and Management System of the Country, and Meta Policies of Economic Resilience can be mentioned, in which productivity has been magnified. In order to implement these policies, national plans have been formulated to realize their goals. In this regard, the National Comprehensive Master Plan of Productivity

of IR Iran has been approved by the government, under which plans and projects for the promotion of productivity have been defined and implemented.

In addition, following the economic crisis of 2008 and its impacts on the national economy, we have faced two other crises influencing our economy and other activities. One of them was the unfair imposition of economic sanctions against IR Iran with the excuse of reaction against the peaceful nuclear program, and the other was the severe fluctuations in global oil prices which have affected our economic policies, considering the dependence of our national economy on oil revenues. Naturally, moving toward the promotion of productivity is considered as a basic strategy to address these challenges by the country's policymakers, and optimally organizing the National Iranian Productivity Organization (NIPO) has been a priority for the government. The importance of productivity in national development and creating new opportunities is also noticeable in the designation of this year as the year of "Economic Resilience: Production and Employment" by the Supreme Leader of IR Iran.

In the sixth program of economic, cultural, and social development of the country which will be implemented as of this year for five years, it is stated that at least 2.8% of the average 8% annual economic growth will be achieved through the promotion of total factor productivity, and in the fifth article of the plan, all governmental executive agencies are assigned to implement the productivity management cycle.

NIPO, as the trustee for the promotion of productivity in the country, managed to formulate, approve, and implement the National Comprehensive Master Plan of Productivity two years ago, in which it has compiled a list of executive actions to be implemented by national and provincial agencies.

Based on this master plan, NIPO has seven plans for the promotion of productivity including 1) Green Productivity, 2) productivity in the country's administrative system, 3) energy productivity, 4) productivity based on competitiveness and innovation within the framework of sustainable development, 5) water productivity, 6) productivity in the country's educational system and its role in other production factors, and 7) productivity in the country's system of planning and budgeting, which will be implemented after cabinet approval.

Furthermore, in order to organize the productivity movement in the country, NIPO has established continuous stable interactions with productivity committees of executive agencies as trustees of their productivity progress. To this end, NIPO holds sessions with the highest-ranked delegates of productivity

committees, who are often a minister's deputy, with the purpose of reaching the goals of the meta policies, implementing the National Comprehensive Master Plan of Productivity, familiarizing the highest management levels with the importance of productivity, and preventing parallel and contradictory actions in the promotion of productivity.

On the other hand, NIPO has taken necessary measures to provide technical, consultancy, and educational services to the 31 provinces of the country, and currently the calculations of productivity indices in 10 voluntary provinces are being completed. This trend will be generalized to other provinces this year.

Considering the excessive share of consumption and capital costs of the governmental sector in the GDP, and the excessive share of public services in the country's general budget, as well as the role of these services in the promotion of social welfare, the promotion of productivity in this sector is considered as a main goal of the Administrative and Recruitment Organization and subsequently of NIPO. Based on this, attention to the effectiveness and efficiency of the accomplished tasks in the governmental sector and their continuous improvement is one of the main concerns. To this end, in line with the APO, NIPO has taken actions toward the promotion of productivity in the governmental sector as a priority. In this regard, IR Iran is now one of the selected countries in the pilot plan of productivity evaluation of the governmental sector with the emphasis on governmental healthcare and educational services.

Also, through the formulation and communication of procedures for productivity evaluation in the country's executive agencies, basic and fundamental measures are being taken on productivity measurement in the executive agencies in order to enter the stage of planning and promotion of productivity. Using the successful experiences of member countries of the APO can help us through the formulation of suitable plans and their successful implementation.

The APO, as one of the most active regional and international productivity organizations, along with the experiences of NPOs as result of their work in the past decades, can be more active than ever in the collection and transfer of these experiences for member countries to use in their national development plans. Working toward the transfer of such experiences, NIPO has prioritized using the experiences of the NPOs of member countries. In this regard, as the first experience, in 2016 NIPO signed an MOU with the Korea Productivity Center and is ready to make provisions for the continuation of such bilateral cooperation with other organizations and member countries.

It is clear that the role of the APO in offering technical, educational, and consultancy services on activities related to the promotion of productivity in various economic, cultural, and social sectors and facilitating the transfer of experiences among member countries can be very effective.

Finally, I hope that the session accomplishes its expected goals, and the outcome of the meeting proves effective in the promotion of productivity in member countries.

Wishing you a delightful stay in IR Iran, I hope that you return to your home countries with a handful of good memories of the hospitality of the warm-hearted and friendly people of the country and that your presence here in the beautiful city of Tehran remains always memorable for you. Good luck and godspeed.