



**Asian Productivity Organization (APO)**

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**Press  
Release**

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## **Japan to explore labor-management relations with Asia-Pacific automotive industry partners**

TOKYO—Twenty high-ranking officials from government, labor ministries, labor unions, and the automotive industry are scheduled to convene in Tokyo, 18–22 November 2013. Representing seven countries from across the Asia-Pacific region, they will attend the Workshop on Labor-Management Relations with Special Focus on the Automobile Industry funded by the Government of Japan and organized by the Asian Productivity Organization and Japan Productivity Center.

As more companies expand overseas, it is imperative to take a global approach to labor-management relations and manage country-specific risks. Experts from the Confederation of Japan Automobile Workers' Union, Honda Motor Workers' Union, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry will lead discussions on labor-management issues, labor obligations to management, role of governments and national productivity organizations in good labor management, and best practices in this area. The workshop will include an optional visit to the 43rd Tokyo Motor Show 2013 courtesy of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

The overarching objective of the workshop is to familiarize participants with labor-management relations practices followed by trading partners, ultimately promoting higher productivity and economic growth through the automotive industry. This workshop also in part responds to the previous labor conflicts involving Japan's automotive partners in Indonesia and India by sharing good practices in addressing labor-management issues.

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### **About the APO**

The APO was established in 1961 as a regional intergovernmental organization with the mission of contributing to the sustainable socioeconomic development of the Asia-Pacific region through productivity promotion. The current membership comprises 20 economies. The APO supports its member countries through capacity-building efforts such as training courses, workshops, seminars, and other activities to enhance productivity.

Tentative Program for Workshop on Labor-Management Relations with focus on Automobile Industry

M	D	Program		
		AM	PM	
November	17	Sun	Arrival of participants	
	18	Mon	<p>9:00-9:45 <b>Opening Ceremony, Orientation</b> <i>Venue: Room C, AP Shibuya, 8F, Shibuya Tokyu Plaza</i></p> <p>10:00-12:00 <b>Keynote Lecture:</b> “Recent status and challenges on Human Resource Management and Labor-Management Relations in the Asia-Pacific” by Dr. Mitsuhide Shiraki, Professor, Faculty of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University</p> <p>12:00-13:00 <b>Welcome Luncheon</b> hosted by APO Secretary General <i>Venue: Room E, AP Shibuya</i></p>	<p>13:00-15:00 <b>Country Paper Presentation:</b> “Overall picture on Labor-Management Relations with special focus on Automobile industry” Coordinated by Prof. Sumiko Ebisuno, Faculty of Economics, Risho University</p> <p>16:00-17:30 <b>Site Visit 1:</b> “Overall picture on Labor-Management Relations with special focus on Japanese Automobile industry” Confederation of Japan Automobile Workers’ Unions (JAW) Mr. Yasunobu Aihara, President, JAW</p>
	19	Tue	<p>9:30-11:00 <b>Lecture:</b> “Productivity Movement in Japan” by Mr. Yoji Osaki, Director, Work-Life Management Department, Japan Productivity Center (JPC)</p> <p>11:00-12:00 <b>Lecture:</b> “Productivity enhancement and Labor-Management Relations” by Prof. Sumiko Ebisuno <i>Venue: Room 31/51, 3F/5F, JPC</i></p>	<p>13:00-14:30 <b>Discussion:</b> “Productivity enhancement and Labor-Management Relations” by Prof. Sumiko Ebisuno</p> <p>15:30-17:00 <b>Site Visit 2: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare</b> “Labor Policies and the Measures on Industrial Relations in Japan” Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)</p>
	20	Wed	<p>“In-House Structure for Labor and Management Cooperation and Initiatives for Better Relationship”</p> <p>AM <b>Site Visit 3: Honda Motor Co., Ltd.</b></p>	<p>PM <b>Site Visit 4: Honda Motor Workers’ Union</b></p>
	21	Thu	<p>10:00-11:30 <b>Site Visit 5: Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry</b> “Global operation of Japanese Automobile Industry” Mr. Yasuhiro Maeda, Director, Automobile Division, Manufacturing Industries Bureau, and Mr. Makoto Ogawa, Deputy Director-General for Labour and Human Resources, Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)</p>	<p>13:00-17:00 <b>Discussion and Group Work:</b> “Stable Labor-Management Relations for Sustainable Productivity Improvement” Coordinated by Prof. Sumiko Ebisuno</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review on WSP results</li> <li>Group discussion by country (What are highly prioritized policies? What are obstacles and solutions for implementation of policies?)</li> <li>Action plan preparation by country</li> </ol> <p><i>Venue: Room D, AP Shibuya</i></p>
22	Fri	<p>9:30-11:30 <b>Presentation:</b> Action plan by country Coordinated by Prof. Sumiko Ebisuno</p> <p>11:30-12:00 <b>Closing Ceremony</b> <i>Venue: Room D, AP Shibuya</i></p>	<p>PM <b>Site Visit 6-optional: Tokyo Motor Show</b> Special Invitation to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Tokyo Motor Show 2013 (Special Guest Day)</p>	
23	Sat	Departure of participants		