

Asian Productivity Organization

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PROJECT NOTIFICATION

22 November 2012

1. **Project Code:** 12-IN-102-GE-CON-A
2. **Project Title:** International Conference on Opportunities and Challenges in Sustainable Urban Living
3. **Duration:** 14–16 March 2013
4. **Venue:** Singapore
5. **Implementing Organization:** Waste Management & Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS)
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6. **Number of Overseas Participants:** Up to 18 qualified participants
7. **Number of Local Participants:** Up to six qualified participants
8. **Closing Date for Nominations:** 21 January 2013

All nominations along with the **completed biodata** form and medical certificate of the nominees should reach the APO Secretariat by the above date. Selection of participants will be

completed immediately after this date. Member countries are requested to inform the APO Secretariat as soon as possible if they do not intend to participate so that the space allocation can be made available to other interested countries.

- 9. Objective:** To hear from industry experts on the latest environmental innovations and technologies and discover market trends catering to sustainable urban living. The conference will stimulate dialogue and sharing of ideas, visions, and best sustainable practices with a focus on businesses and the private sector.

10. Background

Environmental degradation is a constraint on future growth within the Asia-Pacific region and a barrier to efforts to eradicate poverty. The prospects for a livable future in the region remain clouded with uncertainty if the forces causing the deterioration of the environment continue on a destructive trajectory. As the population of the Asia and Pacific region has grown, it has also become more urbanized. By 2015, the percentage of population that is urban is projected to increase to about 48% in East Asia and about 46% in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. By approximately 2020, over half of Asia's population will live in cities; the urban population will triple by 2020. The speed of population growth in urban areas has outpaced the development of environmental infrastructure in many large cities.

Problems range from lack of access to clean water to poor air quality, inability to manage solid waste, and transportation. The number of vehicles is doubling every seven years in the Asia-Pacific, substantially increasing urban air pollution and energy consumption. It is clear that with the rising problems of pollution, solid waste management, and exploitation of natural resources, urban societies are becoming conscious of them and keen to learn more about the best practices, including eco-products and -technologies, followed elsewhere. Pollution-related health problems and the consequent costs in terms of human lives lost are well documented in the context of developing countries.

It is necessary to evolve innovative ways to promote sustainable urban living by developing solutions to minimize energy consumption, reduce waste generation, and tackle air and water pollution. This international conference will address issues, opportunities, and challenges pertaining to sustainable urban living. The conference will feature international speakers who are experts in their specific areas and will incorporate exchanges of the most up-to-date information on topics such as eco-practices, eco-innovations, eco-technologies, sustainable consumption and production, green procurement, eco-lifestyles, and policy interventions to achieve sustainable urban living. The conference is expected to develop useful recommendations.

Organization of the conference in parallel with the eighth Eco-products International Fair (EPIF) further enhances its value, as the EPIF 2013 aims to exhibit eco-products, -services, -technologies, -materials, and -components from around the world including Japan, one of the most energy-efficient countries. The conference combined with the EPIF 2013 is an excellent opportunity for delegates to learn which eco-products, -services, and -technologies are already available on the market and enhance their understanding of sustainable urban living.

11. Tentative Scope and Methodology

The conference will address relevant themes such as: sustainable urban planning; innovation and technology trends; waste minimization and resource recovery; green projects and funds; green procurement; sustainable consumption and production; low-carbon urban growth; eco-practices; energy efficiency; the 3Rs; and renewable energy applications.

This conference will be held in conjunction with the EPIF 2013 and include several plenary sessions with presentations from eminent experts, interactive deliberations, and site visits.

12. Requirements of Candidates

- a) Age: Preferably between 35 and 55 years.
- b) Education: University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.
- c) Present Position: Preference will be given to top and senior officials and professionals engaged in urban planning; managers of enterprises promoting eco-lifestyle-related products and services; policymakers; and representatives of organizations involved in urban waste management and eco-products, -services, -technologies, -materials, and -components. Staff of relevant NGOs and public organizations involved in the promotion of sustainable urban living are also welcome. The candidates must have an appropriate professional background.
- d) Experience: At least five years of experience in promoting and/or developing eco-products, services, -technologies, -materials, and -components related to sustainable urban living.
- e) Language: Proficiency in written and spoken English is essential.
Proficiency
- f) Health: Physically and mentally fit to attend an intensive program entailing strenuous travel and several plant/field visits.

13. Financial Arrangements

a) To be borne by the APO

i) Round-trip economy-class international airfare by the most direct route between the international airport nearest to the participant's place of work and Singapore. As far as practicable, all participants are strongly encouraged to purchase and use discounted tickets. Please note that arrangements for the purchase of air tickets should be in accordance with the "Guide on Purchases of Air Tickets for APO Project Participants" dated 7 July 2006, which will be sent to the selected participants and is available from APO Liaison Officers in member countries.

ii) All assignment costs of overseas resource persons assigned by the APO.

**b) To be borne by the implementing organization (WMRAS) in host country—
Singapore**

i) Accommodation and appropriate per diem allowances to cover meals and incidental expenses of overseas participants during the official period of the conference.

ii) All assignment costs of resource persons assigned by the host country.

iii) All other local implementation costs.

c) To be borne by participants or participating countries

i) **Travel Insurance:** Participants should be fully insured against accident and illness (including hospitalization) for a principal sum of US\$10,000.00 for the entire duration of the project and travel and must submit to the APO a copy of the comprehensive travel insurance certificate before participation. Such insurance should be valid in the countries visited. In case any participant is unable to insure him/herself as stipulated above, he/she should secure this insurance in the host country at the commencement of the project and pay the premium him/herself, if necessary, from the per diem allowances provided. Neither the APO nor the implementing organization will be responsible for any eventuality arising from accident or illness.

ii) Any expenses incurred by experts for stopovers on the way to and from the project venue as well as for extra stay at the project venue before and/or after the official project period on account of early arrival or late departure, for example, due to either limited available flights or any other reason whatsoever.

iii) Any expenses related to visa fees and airport taxes.

14. Actions by Participating Countries

a) Each member country is requested to nominate three or more candidates for selection. Please ensure that candidates nominated meet the qualifications specified above.

b) Please note that when a candidate is nominated it does not follow that he/she is considered selected. Selection is at the discretion of the Screening Committee. A basic criterion for selection is the homogeneity of the participants in terms of qualifications and work experience. Nonselection therefore does not mean that the candidates concerned are not competent enough. Sometimes candidates are not selected because they are overqualified.

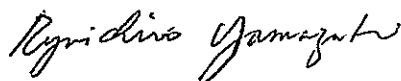
c) Each nomination should be accompanied by the documents listed below. A nomination lacking any of these documents may not be considered:

i) Candidate's biodata on the APO biodata form in duplicate together with passport-sized photograph, which can be downloaded from the APO website. We encourage submitting the biodata form to the APO Secretariat in electronic form as an attachment to a cover e-mail message from the APO Director, Alternate Director, or Liaison Officer.

- ii) The APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form.
- d) Every candidate must complete and submit a copy of the APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form with his/her biodata at the time of nomination. Please note that for this particular project self-declaration is sufficient for candidates without any of the health conditions or illnesses enumerated on the reverse side of the medical form. However, for all others, medical certification by a recognized physician on the reverse side of the medical form is required.
- e) For reasons of expediency or because of time constraints due to approaching nomination deadlines, member countries sometimes send their candidates' biodata forms and medical forms by fax to the APO Secretariat. While this action is very much appreciated, member countries are requested to send the originals of the documents to the APO Secretariat by postal mail as well. They are needed for making clear, clean copies for the host country, especially with regard to the candidates' photos. If the documents are submitted electronically as mentioned in (c)-i), there is no need to send the original by postal mail. If a digital photograph of a nominee is not attached to the electronic biodata form, a hard-copy photograph should be sent to the Secretariat by postal mail. Please specify the candidate's name and the project code on the reverse side of the photograph.
- f) Member countries are requested to abide by the nomination deadline specified in Section 8 on the first page. The APO may not consider late nominations as they have in the past resulted in considerable difficulties to the implementing organization in its preparatory work for the project.
- g) Under normal circumstances, candidates who are selected after the initial screening will be informed of their acceptance at least four weeks prior to commencement of the project.
- h) Member countries are requested to inform candidates that, once selected, they are not to bring family members or to engage in any private business activities during the entire duration of the project. Further, if they should become unable to take part, the NPOs concerned are requested to inform the APO and the host country promptly of their reason for withdrawal.
- i) All selected candidates are required to arrive at the venue one day before the start of the official project. Also, they are expected to return home upon completion of the official project because they are visiting the host country for the specific purpose of attending this APO project.

15. Guide for Participants

Other conditions for participation are given in the *APO Guide for Participants*, which is available from APO Liaison Officers/NPOs in member countries and on the APO homepage (http://www.apo-tokyo.org/05part_guide.htm).



Ryuichiro Yamazaki
Secretary-General