

Welcome Address  
H.E. Byambasuren Urgamal  
Vice Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Government of Mongolia

Mr. Erkhembayar, APO Director for Mongolia,  
Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata, Secretary-General of the Asian Productivity Organization,  
APO Directors and Delegates from APO member countries,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to all of you!

Please accept my warmest welcome and sincere greetings to all the delegates of this 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the APO Governing Body. On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I am honored and delighted to have you all here in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia.

I would like to express my gratitude to the APO and the member countries for giving Mongolia this opportunity to play host to this event and I wish this Session every success.

Since joining the APO ranks in July 1992, Mongolia has actively been participating in Asia Pacific regional productivity events and activities. Productivity and Quality movement has gained a broader and more complete meaning since then, that coinciding with the time when Mongolia has become a democracy and the country has adopted a market economy model.

Mongolia has made steady and significant progress in socio-economic developments during these years. Mongolia aims to have multi-sector economy in conformance with the trends of the world's economic development while maintaining the country's own uniqueness and we see the basis for the sustainable development is the congruence of the Mongolian economy with the global and regional economy, at the same time highlighting and elevating the productivity's importance to the economy.

With its vast natural resources and increasingly educated population, Mongolia has a solid and strong foundation for sustainable and inclusive growth in long run. Yet, with current economic situation and heavy dependence on mining industry, we still have many challenges to prevail. To become a stable multi-sector economy and society dominated by middle and upper middle-income classes, Mongolia will need to strengthen governance and encourage public and private partnerships and most importantly, implement productivity and efficiency throughout all sectors, at all levels, while ensuring equal opportunities to all its citizens in urban and rural areas. The government's main goal is to work together and create a wealthy and happy nation.

In the last two three years, the whole world had experienced harsh time of Covid-19 pandemic with Mongolia being no exception to it. This period was very challenging for any economy and the humanity as a whole, while at the same time it gave us new opportunities to explore and leveraged us to shift into the new way of thinking and made us to quickly embrace technological advances across all sectors including the Government. In this new-age economy, still feeling the huge impacts of the pandemic era, Mongolian economy is transitioning to

post-pandemic expansion, driven by the economic reopening of the international markets, robust demand for mineral commodities and revival of domestic spending.

In order to better address the current problems we are facing, Government of Mongolia is implementing The New Revival Policy, approved by the Parliament in 2021, which aims at encouraging development of the key growth sectors while tackling the main hurdles. The Policy, most importantly, includes a major section: The Revival of the Public Sector Productivity in which the Government pays a paramount attention, among others, to digitalization of the Government services reducing bureaucracy, to optimization of the Government structure through detailed functional analyses and delegation of certain functions to civil society and private sectors, and to improvement of governance of state-owned companies and subjecting them to direct control of the public.

Public sector productivity and efficiency plays a key role for the sustainable socio-economic growth of any nation by providing an environment that is conducive to improving quality of life and satisfaction of citizens and productivity of businesses for their prosperity. I am delighted to note that the concept of public sector productivity is now formally included in the Government policy paper for the first time earning it an everyday usage in the vocabulary of Government officials.

Therefore, I would like to stress out that we find this APO event being held in Ulaanbaatar to be important and interesting both in terms of timing and location. The Government of Mongolia would be glad to cooperate with APO throughout our pursuit of excellence in Public sector productivity and would be willing to share about our achievements and lessons learnt on our quest.

Finally, I would like to highlight that APO's regular assistance and support given to its member countries go a long way to facilitate many areas of social and economic development and thereby contributing the maintenance of Asian economy's growth. With this, I again wish success to the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of APO Governing Body and wish you all, Ladies and Gentlemen, friends, a pleasant stay in Mongolia.

Thank you.