

60th Session of the APO Governing Body
8–10 May 2018, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Welcome Remarks
APO Director for Lao PDR
Somdy Inmyxai

Your Excellency Somchith Inthamith, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR;
APO Chair Chew Mok Lee;
Fellow APO Directors;
APO Secretary-General Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn;
Advisers and Observers; and Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

At the outset, on behalf of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Government of Lao PDR, and in the capacity of APO Director for Lao PDR, I warmly welcome all of you to Vientiane.

On behalf of the APO Directors, APO Secretary-General, advisers, and guests, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to H.E. Somchith Inthamith, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, for being here as the guest of honor at the Inaugural Session of the 60th Session of the APO Governing Body.

We are honored to host the 60th Session of the APO Governing Body, the first-ever APO meeting of the highest level to be held here in Vientiane since Lao PDR became an APO member in 2002. This demonstrates the strong commitment of Lao PDR to the work of the APO, an organization from which we have received continued support and assistance in efforts for productivity improvement for more than a decade. That support includes assisting a number of enterprises, particularly SMEs, to apply productivity enhancement tools and techniques as well as international standards through participation in demonstration projects, seminars, and training programs.

We believe that the 60th GBM presents a good opportunity review progress and achievements in 2017 and to discuss how to strengthen our collective efforts to achieve greater success in 2018 and years to come. In particular, with challenges in the changing, complex regional and international contexts, it is important for APO members to objectively review the Roadmap to Achieve the APO Vision 2020. I am confident that with the active participation and contributions of all APO Directors and advisers, with fresh, innovative ideas, the 60th Session of the Governing Body will be successful and lay a firm foundation for the future.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to H.E. Somchith Inthamith, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR for spending his valuable time with us at this Inaugural Session. I also commend the staff of both the APO Secretariat and DOSMEP for their efforts and dedication to making excellent arrangements for this meeting.

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that Lao PDR has launched a promotion campaign for Visit Laos Year 2018. I therefore invite you to use your spare time to experience the local culture and traditions during your stay here, as well as to return with your families and friends to visit Lao PDR. I wish this meeting great success.

Thank you.