



56th GBM concludes

The 56th Governing Body Meeting (GBM) of the APO opened in Hanoi on 15 April 2014 and concluded on the 17th. Fifty-four delegates comprising APO directors and their advisers from 19 members, along with observers from the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey, FAO, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and Pan African Productivity Association were in attendance.

Vice Minister of Science and Technology Tran Viet Thanh was the guest of honor at the event. In his keynote speech, he commented that, "For businesses, productivity, quality, and innovation are factors to help improve performance and competitive advantage in the domestic as well as international markets. I believe that the APO, which leads and coordinates activities to promote quality and productivity in the Asia-Pacific, will put forward innovative and appropriate strategies to support its members in a more effective way."

APO Director for Vietnam Dr. Ngo Quy Viet delivered the welcome remarks. He stated that, "The APO is also an important bridge connecting members in the region as well as with other international organizations." APO Chair Yamaaranz Erkembayar expressed similar sentiments, adding, "In recent years, the Asia-Pacific member economies have shown great resilience in growing despite the global economic and financial crises that took place over several years. The year 2014 is expected to see strengthening economic growth for all APO member countries. As we endeavor to grow stronger and more competitive, productivity enhancement remains one of our top priorities. In order to achieve these targets, the APO therefore still has to continue making strong efforts to improve the productiveness and competitiveness of member countries."



Vietnamese Vice Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology Tran Viet Thanh delivering the inaugural address. Photo courtesy of VPC.

During the plenary session, APO Director for Nepal Krishna Gyawali was elected APO Chair for 2014–2015, with APO Alternate Director for Pakistan Arif Ibrahim (representing APO Director for Pakistan Shafqat Hussain Naghmi) and APO Director for the Philippines Margarita R. Songco assuming the positions of First and Second Vice Chairs, respectively. Key GBM agenda items included the annual report of the Secretary-General, report on the revised APO membership contribution formula, and approval of the APO preliminary budget for the 2015–2016 biennium.

The meeting unanimously approved the preliminary budget for the 2015–2016 biennium which maintained the same level of total membership contributions as for the 2013–2014 biennium but increased the budget by 5% to include more projects. Additional sources of income to fund the increased expenditure will come from surpluses and other sources.

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56th Session of the APO Governing Body. Photo courtesy of VPC.

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