



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

9 February 2017

1. **Project Code** 13-RP-15-GE-RES-C-03
2. **Project Title** Program Development Fund
3. **Project Activity** Establishment of the APO Future Intelligence Center
4. **Duration** 15 February 2017–14 February 2018 (one year)
5. **Venue** APO Secretariat
6. **Number of Experts** One international expert from the UK
7. **Background**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is now being incorporated in a wide range of human activities and fields of endeavor, from agriculture, banking, and transportation to many others. AI and robotics are addressing the challenges of caring for aging populations, reducing traffic accidents and deaths, and enabling disaster responses in dangerous situations like earthquakes and meltdowns in nuclear power plants. On the business side, AI is used to access big data at the right time and in the right format to generate beneficial insights for decision makers and business planners. For knowledge workers, the automation of time-consuming, menial tasks helps free them for more strategic, impactful work that can lead to improvements in every aspect of a business. AI has great potential for improving productivity and creating growth by automating tasks across a broad cross section of industries.

While it is acknowledged that widespread applications of AI could result in short-term displacement of labor, it is believed that the long-term economic benefits outweigh the near-term consequences, and the key to minimizing the impact on jobs is to educate workers on how to use AI so they can focus on high-value skills. New types of jobs and processes will be created, and different skills will be required with the increased use of AI.

Given all these revolutionary, transformative, shifting paradigms in business as well as other aspects of human activities, the APO will endeavor to support member countries in keeping pace with the new trends by advancing public understanding of AI and related state-of-the-art technologies. For this purpose, it will establish the APO Future Intelligence Center (AFIC) to strengthen its capacity-building and advisory services to member countries, especially in the areas of strategic foresight and scenario planning.

8. Objectives

- a. To strengthen the capability of the APO Secretariat in strategic planning including foresight and scenario planning by integrating AI and sound analytics in its systems; and

- b. To establish the AFIC to provide member countries with access to customized horizon scanning, forecasting, and relevant information for strategic planning and policymaking.

9. Financial Arrangements

To be borne by the APO

- a. One-year subscription to Shaping Tomorrow Limited for up to 12 user licenses;
- b. All assignment costs of an expert to conduct a workshop at the APO Secretariat; and
- c. All local implementation costs.



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