**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

20 November 2018

1. **Project Code**  
   18-RP-33-GE-DON-C-01

2. **Project Title**  
   Development of the Centers of Excellence (COE)

3. **Project Activity**  
   Expert Panel Meeting to Assess the Proposal for a COE on Smart Manufacturing

4. **Project Reference**  
   Project Notification 18-RP-33-GE-DON-C dated 23 May 2018

5. **Timing**  
   16 January 2019

6. **Venue**  
   APO Secretariat

7. **Number of Experts**  
   Up to five experts

8. **Objectives**

   The objective of the expert panel meeting is to evaluate the proposal for a COE on Smart Manufacturing and recommend whether to approve it and establish the new COE.

9. **Background**

   In an effort to assess the areas of excellence of NPOs or partner organizations in member countries to identify the next COE, discussions commenced with potential organizations in member countries. To date, only a proposal for a COE on Smart Manufacturing has been received from the CPC of the ROC. The Secretariat is therefore convening an expert panel to assess that proposal and make recommendations on its acceptance based on the general guidelines set by the Governing Body.

   The meeting(s) will be conducted via Skype among five members consisting of selected NPO Heads or their representatives in the capacity of experts along with subject matter experts. The NPOs Heads will be selected based on their previous participation in discussions on the COE and/or their expertise on the proposed topic. Experts on Industry 4.0 Smart Manufacturing will be invited based on their accomplishments, knowledge, and experience in the field.

10. **Objectives**

    a. To assess the proposal for a COE on Smart Manufacturing as the next designated COE, including assessment of the competencies and expertise available in the proposing member country, current and proposed programs, and existing organizational structure that will support the sustainable operation of the COE; and

    b. To make recommendations to the APO Governing Body based on the evaluation outcome.
11. Financial Arrangements

To be borne by the APO

a. Honorarium for the preparations and meeting(s) via Skype of selected panel members;
   and

b. Other costs that may arise in conducting the Skype meeting(s).

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Secretary-General