



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 20-RP-21-GE-CON-A-490

Date of Issue	16 October 2020
Project Code	20-RP-21-GE-CON-A
Title	Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy for Productivity Growth
Timing and Duration	8 December 2020
Modality	Digital Multicountry (DMC)
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Overseas Participants	250
Local Participants	50
Closing Date for Nominations	7 November 2020

1. Objectives

- a. To share good practices in formulating science, technology, and innovation policy (STIP) for tackling societal challenges and enhancing productivity performance; and
- b. To discuss effective mechanisms of enhancing STIP responsiveness to emergency demand.

2. Background

Scientific breakthroughs, disruptive technologies, and radical innovation have contributed to advances in productivity and economic development. Resources mobilized for science, technology, and innovation (STI) have been aimed mainly at maximizing economic benefits. Recently, the emergence of complex social issues has raised the question of the dominant focus inherent in most countries' STIP frameworks. For example, developing countries have recognized that growth alone does not guarantee equality and inclusiveness, while the higher-income ones still face substantial strains such as care systems for the elderly in "silver economies". The common realization is that even though economic growth and social progress are not mutually exclusive, their targets have not been in tandem in STIP formulation. The ongoing crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic serves as a typical illustration of the urgency of broadening STI agendas to anticipate and respond to social problems.

Reflecting the fact that social dimensions are no longer peripheral to but a crucial factor in driving STI policymaking and shaping its outcomes, there is growing demand to evolve STIP frameworks to tackle social challenges while pursuing economic growth-promoting objectives. This expanded scope implies that policymakers need to use multiple frameworks to achieve diverse economic and social outcomes. Initiatives aiming at a more sustainable, prosperous future through STIP are being launched worldwide. Many governments have started putting in place various STIP instruments including research grants to address social challenges, funding schemes for social innovation projects, and prizes in recognition of social efforts. Another aim is enlarging the group of social innovators. Through the whole-of-government approach, plans to shift from technology-centered to human-centered STI or to mainstream SDG inclusiveness targets into national STI strategies are other examples.

This conference organized by the APO will be a good platform to share the best practices in designing and reframing STIP targeting both social and economic progress issues. Discussions of mechanisms to facilitate swift responses to societal emergencies like pandemics, enhance STIP responsiveness to social demands for inclusiveness and equality, etc. will be the key focus of this conference. The conference is a continuation of APO efforts to promote simultaneous innovation-led productivity growth and greater social inclusiveness.

3. Modality of Implementation

- a. This conference will be conducted online using videoconference applications.
- b. The resource speakers and participants will participate in the session virtually using their own devices, applications, and Internet connections.
- c. The duration of the sessions will be up to three hours.
- d. The APO Secretariat will inform the resource speakers and participants of the applicable videoconference application and send a link to the virtual sessions.
- e. The videoconference link will be provided exclusively to resource speakers and participants in this conference and should not be shared.

4. Scope and Methodology

The conference will consist of a plenary thematic session with expert presentations and a panel discussion. The tentative program is given below:

Date/Time	Activity
Tuesday, 8 December	Opening session Presentation of resource papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STIP for dual targets: Enhancing productivity and tackling societal challenges • Societal emergencies and responsiveness of STIP • STIP for inclusive growth • SDGs enhancing innovation in STIP frameworks • Technology-centered to human-centered: The approach of Society 5.0 • Policy instruments for social innovation and social enterprise development Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STIP for innovative, inclusive productivity growth and societal demand Closing session

5. Qualifications of Candidates

Present Position	Senior government officials from STI agencies involved in designing national STIP and implementing STIP instruments
Work Experience	Three years of experience or more in the position described above.
Education	University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university or similar tertiary institution.
Computer Literacy	Familiarity and competency in connecting to virtual meetings, including independently undertaking troubleshooting in the event of poor or lost connections.
Language	Proficiency in English, both written and spoken.

6. Requirements

- a. Have necessary devices comprising a computer, web camera, microphone, and speaker or headphones.
- b. Access to Internet connections suitable for videoconferencing. Stable, wired LAN connections are preferred.
- c. Follow the instructions of the moderators/presenters in asking questions, joining discussions, and answering questions.
- d. Participate in the entire session.

7. Financial Arrangements

The APO will meet the assignment costs for resource persons.

8. Actions by Member Countries

- a. Each participating country will nominate 10 or more candidates in order of preference.
- b. Self-nominations will not be accepted.
- c. All nominations must be endorsed by an APO Director or Alternate Director and submitted by a

Liaison Officer or designated officer.

- d. Each nomination must be accompanied by the APO biodata form and uploaded to the APO Document Management System (DMS)/Fleekdrive by the NPO. The biodata form is available on the APO website.
- e. Late nominations will not be accepted. When a nomination requires the approval of higher authorities and requires a longer time, the member country concerned should send the name(s) of the nominee(s) before or by the deadline, indicating that approval will follow.
- f. If a selected participant becomes unable to participate, the NPO concerned should inform the APO Secretariat promptly.

9. Actions by the APO Secretariat

- a. Selection of candidates will be at the discretion of the Participant Selection Committee of the APO Secretariat.
- b. Selection of candidates will be completed and announced three weeks prior to the start of the project.
- c. Slots that become available due to withdrawal of a selected candidate(s) or lack of nominations by a member country may be filled by alternates to be selected on a merit basis.
- d. The APO Secretariat will inform NPOs of the final program, platform, and link of the virtual meeting, as well as the schedule for technical coordination when applicable, two weeks prior to commencement of the conference.

10. Dress Code

Participants are required to wear appropriate business attire during the conference.



Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General