



## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 20-IN-82-GE-WSP-B - 466

<b>Date of Issue</b>	30 September 2020
<b>Project Code</b>	20-IN-82-GE-WSP-B
<b>Title</b>	Workshop on Productivity Quality and Innovation for Transforming Economies
<b>Timing and Duration</b>	27-29 January 2021 (three days)
<b>Hosting Country</b>	Pakistan
<b>Modality</b>	Digital Multicountry (DMC)
<b>Implementing Organization(s)</b>	National Productivity Organization, Pakistan and the APO Secretariat
<b>Participating Countries</b>	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam.
<b>Overseas Participants</b>	19
<b>Local Participants</b>	12
<b>Closing Date for Nominations</b>	21 December 2020

Notes: This PN supersedes the PN issued on 21 May 2020.

## **1. Objectives**

- a. To understand principle views of productivity and hold discussions on a mix of contributing factors for transforming economies;
- b. To review ways of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of productivity measures through enhancing quality and undertaking innovations at firm, industry, and national levels; and
- c. To recommend an integrated approach to transform economies from lower- to higher-productivity levels as a key driver of sustainable economic development.

## **2. Background**

“Transforming economies” refers to structural changes in the composition of industrial sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. GDP shares in most advanced economies follow the order of services, industry, and manufacturing. APO member countries also follow that trend. Based on country classifications by the UN, the World Economic Situation Prospect 2020 report shows 13 APO members in the middle-income range (measured by per capita gross national income) as they transition from economies based on agriculture to other sectors. Recent advances in Industry 4.0 are contributing to the trend as digital technologies become more widespread regardless of national income level, which provides opportunities for APO member economies to climb the ladder of productivity growth.

The principle of enhancing productivity is the optimum use of resources such as labor and capital. Optimizing the use of inputs means producing the right products at maximum output, which is one definition of effectiveness. Increased effectiveness can result from novel product development through supplying new resources across sectors or improvement of existing products. In addition to products, improved services can be developed through new business models. These activities are supported by production technologies and innovations to create greater industrial value addition and make businesses more competitive in the market. Processes (systems) are critical for efficiently and sustainably enhancing the quality of firms, businesses, and industrial sectors. Actively improving quality and innovating create a virtuous cycle where knowledge and know-how are transformed into outputs and then accumulated as inputs for enhancing productivity while economies transition to the next level. Hence, mechanisms for increasing productivity, quality, and innovation are important items on national socioeconomic development agendas.

This workshop will review and discuss diverse aspects of creating industrial value and national economic strategies aiming to move to secondary and tertiary industries for higher productivity in APO members. Through this workshop, participants will be able to understand the concept of economic transformation and explore opportunities and advantages in their countries’ industrial development process to optimize resource use.

## **3. Modality of Implementation**

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

#### 4. Scope and Methodology

The workshop will consist of interactive lectures, case studies, and discussions. The tentative program is given below:

Date/Time	Activity
Wednesday, 27 January	Opening session Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept and measurement of productivity, transforming (restructuring) economies, and relation to innovation and quality</li> <li>• Designing the economy for higher value-added industries</li> <li>• Technology- and data-driven production to increase productivity</li> </ul> Country presentations
Thursday, 28 January	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business sophistication through knowledge production, accumulation, and absorption</li> <li>• Rethinking industries in the digital age: Implications for manufacturing, sectoral review of industrial development, and social/economic changes</li> <li>• R&amp;D and investment in innovation</li> </ul> Country presentations
Friday, 29 January	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of policies for future industry development, structural change, and transforming economies</li> </ul> Group breakout session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of group discussion output</li> </ul> Program evaluation Closing session

#### 5. Qualifications of Candidates

<b>Present Position</b>	Policymakers and government officials working for industrial or economic development for higher productivity and/or business transformation and innovation in the era of Industry 4.0.
<b>Work Experience</b>	Two years of experience or more in the position described above.
<b>Education</b>	University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university or similar tertiary institution.
<b>Computer Literacy</b>	Familiarity and competency in connecting to virtual meetings, including independently undertaking troubleshooting in the event of poor or lost connections.
<b>Language</b>	Proficiency in English, both written and spoken. Participants will be required to make presentations and engage in discussions.

#### 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 workshop.

## **7. Financial Arrangements**

- a. The APO will meet the assignment costs for international resource persons.
- b. The host country will meet the assignment costs of local resource persons and for a virtual site visit(s), either broadcast live or recorded as applicable.

## **8. Actions by Member Countries**

- a. Each participating country will nominate three 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 Alternative 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 and the host country 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 workshop.

## **10. Dress Code**

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



Dr. AKP Mochtan  
Secretary-General