

About the APO

1. *What is the APO?*

The APO is a regional intergovernmental organization and is nonpolitical, nonprofit, and nondiscriminatory.

2. *When was the APO established?*

It was established on 11 May 1961.

3. *What does the APO do?*

The APO promotes productivity among its members in the industry, service, and agriculture sectors, and in doing so partners mainly with National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) and other international organizations.

4. *Why does the APO promote productivity?*

The APO promotes productivity because it is one of the key ways to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development.

5. *How does the APO promote productivity?*

The APO carries out capacity-building activities for NPOs and undertakes projects for human resources development such as training courses, research, and publications.

6. *Where does the APO obtain its funding?*

Funding mainly depends on annual membership contributions, supplemented by special cash and project implementation grants from the governments of APO members.

About Membership

How does a country become a member of the APO?

Membership in the organization is open to Countries that accept the obligations contained in the Convention on the Asian Productivity Organization and the Governing Body Meeting (GBM) annual proceeding and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able to carry out these obligations. Countries are admitted to membership in the Asian Productivity Organization subject to approval of two-thirds of the Directors of the Governing Body.

In broad terms the application goes through three stages:

- Submit a Note Verbale or Letter embodying the intent of your government to the APO.

APO Membership

- In close consultation with the APO, individually discuss the details of your country's membership. These bilateral talks will include discussions on country-specific details to ascertain, amongst other aspects, setting up of NPO, specific areas of expertise that can be shared with members, and membership contribution.
- Accession shall be subject to the approval of the Directors of the Governing Body as per Article 46 of the Convention on the APO and a vote by which two-thirds of the Governing Body must be in favor of the potential member country joining. It can be submitted by the Secretariat to the Directors either through circular or as an agenda of the Governing Body Meeting.

What are the duties and obligations of member government?

1. Each Member shall designate and authorize a representative to serve as Director in the Organization, and each such Director shall be a member of the Governing Body (the supreme organ of the Organization). A Director may be replaced at any time of another Director designated and authorized by that Member (refer to roles of APO Director).
2. Each member shall be entitled to designate by name previously notified to the Secretary-General, an Alternate Director as its representative with authority to exercise in the absence of the Director to whom he/she is alternate, all the powers of that Director.
3. Each Member may nominate a liaison officer to facilitate matters relating to the APO (refer to roles of APO Liaison Officer).
4. Each Member may nominate a national productivity organization (NPO) and an NPO head to implement productivity improvement programs and spearhead the productivity movement in their respective countries (refer to roles of NPO and Head of NPO).
5. The membership contribution of a Member is based on the Contribution Formula determined by the Governing Body.
6. A Member shall extend within its territory to the Organization and its Secretariat staff such privileges, immunities and facilities as determined in separate agreements, if concluded between the Organization and Its Members, as may be necessary for the exercise of the functions and fulfillment of the purposes of the Organization.
7. A Member is expected to host at least one multicountry project a year, bearing all local implementing costs, including participants' per diems and local faculty/resource persons' costs.

APO Membership

8. All Members shall be eligible for participation in Projects of the Organization under the conditions as set forth in the Project Regulations of the APO.

APO Membership Benefits and Values: Why should your country join the APO?

1. Access APO Data & Research

APO members can cooperate bilaterally under the Bilateral Cooperation between NPO's, Individual Observational Study Missions and Member Country Support Programs. Member countries have the opportunity to access and participate in the compilation of the annual APO Productivity Databook – a globally recognized report which member countries can utilize to create national economic policies and use as a guide to international benchmarking.

2. Access experts and industry thought leaders through the APO network.

Experts assigned to APO projects come from within and outside the Asia-Pacific region, allowing development of professional networks covering the globe. Projects are attended by participants from diverse backgrounds, including NPOs, government, academia, and private-sector companies, facilitating the development of professional networks, creating business opportunities, and offering opportunities for joint research.

3. Get personalized, tailor-made guidance based on your countries requirements and circumstances.

Member countries can request country specific projects based on their particular needs and productivity requirements such as the frequently requested Technical Expert Services and In-country Training Program.

Role of APO Director

1. Consult with the concerned government authorities in their respective countries to determine, in the light of the country's productivity movement in general and the activities of its National Productivity Organization (NPO) in particular, the nature and type of program activities that APO is expected to undertake in a certain year (i.e., annual program) or during a number of years (i.e., rolling Two-Year Plan);
2. Make commitments on behalf of their respective Governments with regard to annual membership contributions according to the Convention, offer or request for cooperation and assistance to and from both APO and other member countries and make any additional financial commitments for implementing any of APO's program activities;
3. Request and receive, on a regular basis from various national agencies/institutions, including the NPO, information on the activities of such agencies/institutions engaged in productivity in general, and those in relation to APO in particular;
4. Request and receive detailed reports from the respective Heads of NPOs on the results of the annual Workshop Meeting of Heads of NPOs to serve as one of the basis on which to conduct consultation and coordination, from time to time, with the concerned government authorities as well as the private sector, in order to arrive at a policy in respect of APO's program activities and respective Government's financial commitments to APO;
5. Receive from the respective Governments full endorsement and authorization of such a policy which will become the terms of reference when attending the Governing Body Meetings and when making decisions on APO matters through correspondence; And
6. Report to the concerned government authorities the results of the Governing Body and recommend actions to be taken by the respective Governments to increase productivity and promote the productivity movement in their respective countries both through country efforts and through mutual cooperation with other APO Members.

Role of APO Liaison Officer

The position of the Liaison Officer was created in 1962 on the decision of the Second Session of the Governing Body which reads as follows:

“It is recommended that each member Government may nominate a Liaison Officer to facilitate expeditious disposal of matters relating to APO. In the event any member country experiences difficulty in having only one Liaison Officer that country may appoint an additional Liaison Officer.”

Generally, the appoint of a Liaison Officer by each Government was considered advisable, so that he/she will be available to APO for taking all action necessary on APO matters. It was also felt that with the experience of some of the international organizations, it would be desirable to have a person, at a certain working level, with whom the APO Secretariat can function.

These Liaison Officers are to be appointed by the Government concerned and will not be paid by APO or form part of the APO Secretariat in any way. On behalf of the Director, it will be the Liaison Officer in each Government that would be the coordinating Productivity Organization or any other implementing agency. It would seem that this officer was appointed for the purpose of a smooth and effective liaison of the APO Secretariat with the member Government concerned.

At present, the Liaison Officer, where such has been appointed, is either in the Productivity Organization or in the Government, depending upon the convenience of each Government. It is appropriate that the choice of nominating the Liaison Officer from any of the offices should be left entirely to the decision of the Government concerned.

In the light of the past experience, the Liaison Officer would function for the following purposes:

1. APO correspondence, except any that need direct reference to the Director, will be addressed to Liaison Officer and he/she will channel the correspondence to the concerned person or agency as advisable.
2. He/she will attend to all APO correspondence on nominations of participants, trainees, experts, which have to be done on behalf of the Government, and all physical and financial arrangement necessary in the implementation of the projects, after obtaining the necessary signature or clearance from the Director.

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3. The Liaison Officer may channel correspondence to any other person either in the Government or in the NPO, depending upon the nature of the project.
4. The Liaison Officer will supply to APO the data and information on the projects implemented by the countries or connected with APO projects.

It may also be mentioned that in regard to projects in agriculture, difficulty is being experienced in obtaining data and information on agricultural aspects. At present the Governments are suggesting "Correspondents" on an ad-hoc basis.

Role of National Productivity Organization and Head of NPO

1. NPOs are national bodies mandated with spearheading the productivity movement in their respective countries and act as APO's planning and implementing agencies;
2. The NPO and the Head of the NPO are appointed by a member government;
3. Heads of the Productivity Organizations are deeply involved in the drafting and implementation of programs and should possess the necessary knowledge to run these programs.
4. The NPO Delegate representing a member country at a Workshop Meeting of NPO Heads (WSM) should be the Head of the NPO who is *directly looking after the operations*, planning and implementation of APO productivity programs.