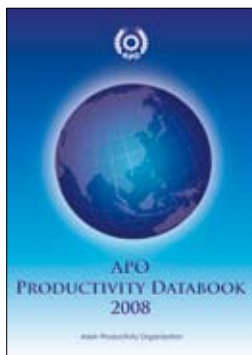




New APO publication



APO PRODUCTIVITY DATABOOK 2008

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APO relaunches databook series

In response to the increasing awareness of the importance of internationally harmonized productivity data, in 2007 the APO reembarked on the publication of the *APO Productivity Databook* series to cover productivity data from its member countries. Eighteen national experts met in Kathmandu, Nepal, in May 2007 to discuss the most appropriate indicators and methodology to be used.

While the APO has made several previous attempts to compile productivity-related indicators in the past, the *APO Productivity Databook 2008* marks a clear departure from those efforts in terms of both the focus and methodology. First, the new edition focuses on international and regional comparative analyses. Second, it provides data on labor productivity performance in Asian countries covering the three decades since 1975. Hence, it enables assessment of the status and evolution of labor productivity in APO member countries in the context of past national trends, as well as in comparison with reference benchmark economies or regions worldwide (the EU, People's Republic of China, and USA). It therefore offers a fresh perspective on regional growth and development and likely future directions of socioeconomic development.

This edition is divided into an overview of the analytical results, the findings from the 19 countries, explanations of how the results were interpreted, and a chapter on industry performance broken down into the subsections "Industry Structure and Economic Development," "Industry Origins of Economic Growth," and "Labor Productivity Growth by Industry." The raw data are also given in more than 50 pages for the convenience of readers who want to carry out their own analyses following the APO model. In addition to numerous figures and tables, a notable feature of the *APO Productivity Databook 2008* is the inclusion of 11 "boxes" explaining concepts and giving information of current interest, e.g., purchasing power parities, how measurement in the informal sector can be performed, real income and terms of trade, and the impact of now nearly ubiquitous information technology on economic growth.

The *APO Productivity Databook 2008* is the fruit of efforts coordinated by the APO Secretariat's Research and Planning Department; a team of productivity specialists at the Keio Economic Observatory, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan, namely Professor Koji Nomura, Ms. Eunice Y.M. Lau, and Mr. Hideyuki Mozobuchi; and the 19 national experts.

The APO will continue efforts to improve the quality of the data and methodology used for analysis in the databook series in coming years. A new edition is planned for 2009. With time, total factor productivity (TFP) analysis should be possible for many member countries. That goal will become increasingly important, since TFP reflects the results of innovation, adoption of appropriate technology, and learning, all of which are indispensable in the globalized economy.

For order and inquiry on APO publications and videos, please contact the Asian Productivity Organization, Hirakawa-cho Dai-ichi Seimei Bldg. 2F, 1-2-10 Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0093, Japan. Phone number: (81-3) 5226-3920, Fax: (81-3) 5226-3950, e-Mail: apo@apo-tokyo.org.