



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

5 December 2016

1. **Project Code** 17-IN-01-GE-OSM-C
2. **Title** Individual-country Observational Study Missions
3. **Duration** Up to one week (five working days) per mission
4. **Venue** Member countries
5. **Implementing Organizations** NPOs in host member countries
6. **Number of Participants** Approximately 10 (preferably minimum six, maximum 12) per mission
7. **Closing Date for Preliminary Applications** First phase: 31 March 2017
Second phase: 30 June 2017

8. Objectives

To provide opportunities for professionals/managers/entrepreneurs from an individual member country or NPO to study, discuss, and observe recent developments and best practices in specific areas of interest by visiting another country(ies).

9. Background

Under the Individual-country Observational Study Mission (I-OSM) Program, a member country may send a mission(s) to one or more other member countries to study and observe recent developments and best practices in a particular area of interest relevant to its needs for productivity promotion. This program addresses individual member country needs in the pursuit of productivity enhancement.

To strengthen the I-OSM Program and promote productivity partnerships among member economies, all NPOs are encouraged to host one or more missions in 2017 depending upon the relevance of subject areas and allocation of resources. NPOs dispatching a mission(s) are requested to submit the details of follow-up actions to the APO including final report submission prepared by mission members describing relevant postmission activities.

10. Scope and Methodology

Scope

Smart initiatives in the industry, service, and agriculture sectors and other productivity-related issues.

Methodology

Orientation sessions, visits to private enterprises and government agencies, interactive discussions, report preparation, and evaluation.

11. Composition of Missions

- a. As stated under section 6 above, each I-OSM is to consist of approximately 10 members (preferably a minimum of six and a maximum of 12). They can be drawn from NPO staff, top management in the industry and service sectors, public sector, and trade associations and should have more or less homogeneous backgrounds and experience in the selected subject area.
- b. Each study mission will comprise members drawn from several organizations, to the extent possible, involved in the subject area so that the benefits may be widely shared within the country.
- c. Mission members should preferably be between 25 and 55 years of age.
- d. A mission leader must be appointed, and the concerned NPO must notify the APO in advance of the name of the mission leader to facilitate project implementation.
- e. Mission members must be physically and mentally fit to attend an intensive program, which entails strenuous travel and several plant/field visits. It is therefore recommended that member countries refrain from nominating candidates suffering from or likely to suffer from physical and mental stress or who have any serious health conditions.

12. Financial Arrangements

To be borne by participants or participating countries

- a. Round-trip international travel fare between the member country and venue(s) of study.
- b. Per diem allowances for all mission members and accommodation for additional members (if there are more than six) during the official period of the mission.
- c. Participating Country Expenses (PCE) at USD50.00 per participant from a profit-making organization will be payable to the APO in convertible currency. In the case of self-financed participants who bear all costs, including hotel accommodation and daily subsistence, and those from nonprofit organizations, the payment of PCE to the APO will not be applicable.
- d. The participants' travel insurance premium against illness or injury, personal risk, and life covering the countries to be visited for the entire duration of the project and travel.

- e. In case of a cancellation by the requesting NPO after the issuance of the Letter of Acceptance (LA) to mission members, the concerned NPO is requested to bear all the costs associated with the cancellation.
- f. Any other expenses not borne by the APO and hosting countries.

To be borne/provided by the host country

- a. Logistic support for organizing the mission.

To be borne by the APO

- a. Single-room accommodation expenses for a maximum of six mission members for up to six days.
- b. Transportation expenses between the airport and the hotel and for site visits in the host country.
- c. Interpretation expenses, if applicable, in the host country.

13. Actions by Member Countries

Preliminary Application

Member countries that intend to send study missions in 2017 must send their requests to the APO in writing **by 31 March 2017** (for missions planned between 1 January to 31 July 2017) or **by 30 June 2017** (for missions planned between 1 August to 31 December 2017).

Requests should indicate the following on the I-OSM Application Form (attached):

- a. Title and subject area to be studied, objective(s) of the mission, and scope of study with as much specific information as possible; and
- b. Suggested country(ies) for observational study (due to the difficulty in coordinating programs, the number of countries to be visited by one mission cannot exceed two).

Upon receipt of the above requests, the APO will liaise with the proposed host country(ies) on the possibility of organizing the I-OSM, adhering as closely as possible to the nature of the request. If a country has several requests for I-OSMs, their priority should be specified. The Secretariat will then inform the concerned country of the outcome of the request. It must be emphasized that the acceptance of the request is subject to the convenience of the proposed host country(ies).

Formal Application

After being notified by the APO of the possibility of acceptance by the proposed host country(ies), the sending country should then proceed to make a formal application to the APO. The following documents and details must be sent with the application:

- a. Completed I-OSM Application Form. Provision of information on a piecemeal basis will

not be accepted as this causes a great deal of inconvenience to the APO and the host country(ies).

- b. Completed APO biodata forms (attached) for I-OSM members.
- c. Name of the mission leader.
- d. Medical certificate indicating the physical and mental fitness of each member to attend the I-OSM for the entire period as stated in paragraph 11 (e) above.

To provide adequate lead time for preparation, the documents above must reach the APO at least three months prior to the implementation of the mission.

- e. The NPO of the host country is expected to bear the expenses as indicated in 12 “To be borne by the APO” initially, which will be later reimbursed by the APO upon submission of an invoice issued by third party along with supporting documents. This arrangement has been made for smoother management of overseas payments by the APO, and NPOs are requested to cooperate in this regard. The invoice to the APO should be issued in the local currency, and the APO will reimburse the USD equivalent amount based on the APO exchange rate in the month of payment.
- f. If a selected mission cannot take place as scheduled, the NPOs concerned are requested to inform the APO and the NPO of the host country promptly of the reason for request of postponement/cancellation. Member countries are reminded that last-minute postponement/cancellation results in unnecessary expense and waste of resources by the host countries and therefore must be avoided.

14. Acceptance of the Mission

- a. An LA for the group will be issued by the APO to the sending country only upon receipt of the full details of all mission members.
- b. A request for a change in mission members after the LA is issued is to be avoided. Under no circumstances will such a request be accepted if it fails to reach the Secretariat at least two weeks prior to the commencement date of the mission.
- c. The sending country must obtain the prior consent of the APO and the host country(ies) if it wants to increase the number of mission members to more than previously specified by the host country, as recipient organizations may have finalized the physical arrangements and may be unable to accept additional members.

15. Program and Itinerary

- a. Upon receipt of the mission details, the host country will prepare the program and forward the program itinerary to reach the APO at least three weeks before the mission commencement date. Plants/offices/facilities selected for visits should to the extent possible be in a similar field of business as represented by mission members.
- b. The APO will send the program details including the itinerary prepared by the host country three weeks before the commencement date of the project to the sending country

for review. The sending country may suggest changes in the program but these must be made known to the APO no later than two weeks prior to the start of the mission, otherwise the program and itinerary will be regarded as finalized. Requests to revise the finalized program after the mission's arrival in the host country will not be accepted. The above timetable is contingent upon the receipt of documents specified in section 13 above.

- c. The timing of the project and the program are to be strictly adhered to by all parties concerned. The sending country must under no circumstances postpone or cancel the mission without prior agreement in writing from the APO. In the past, postponement or cancellation in the advanced stage of preparations caused a great deal of embarrassment on the part of the host countries and is to be avoided at all costs in the future. In case of a cancellation by the requesting NPO after the issuance of the LA to mission members, the concerned NPO is requested to bear all the costs associated with the cancellation.

16. Predeparture Preparations

a. Orientation by NPO/Liaison Officers

It is strongly recommended that the NPO or liaison officer of the sending member country organize a predeparture meeting to brief mission members on the role and activities of the APO (e.g., by screening the APO video), scope of the project, and the expected outcomes of the mission. This will equip mission members with a knowledge of APO and NPO activities as well as adequately prepare them for a more productive mission.

b. Insurance Coverage

All mission members must be fully covered by travel insurance against accident, illness, and hospitalization for a principal sum of at least USD10,000.00 or more for the entire duration of the I-OSM. Such insurance coverage must be valid in the host country(ies). If for some reason any mission member is unable to secure the insurance coverage in advance, he/she is required to obtain it in the host country(ies) at his/her own expense at the start of the mission. Neither the APO nor the implementing organization(s) in the host country(ies) will be liable for any eventuality affecting mission members as a result of accident or illness during the I-OSM.

If the I-OSM is implemented in Japan, all mission members must be fully insured in Japan, regardless of any insurance coverage obtained in their own country, against accident and illness (including hospitalization) for:

- accidental death and dismemberment for up to JPY4,000,000,
- medical expenses for accident for up to JPY4,000,000, and
- medical expenses for illness manifested for the first time for up to JPY4,000,000

for the entire duration of the project. The APO will secure this travel insurance on behalf of mission members in Japan from the day before project commencement until the day after project completion. Each member must pay the premium directly to the APO.

c. Hotel Reservations

The implementing organization(s) in the host country(ies) will make suitable hotel reservations in close consultation with the APO Secretariat. All members will be accommodated in the same hotel to facilitate local travel arrangements. Mission members

may, however, suggest to the APO well in advance the type of hotel and details of the rooms desired. If mission members prefer to make their own arrangements, they may do so but they must be accommodated at the same hotel.

17. Implementation

a. Arrival at the Venue(s)

Members of study missions will make group flight reservations as far as practicable and inform both the APO and the implementing organization(s) of their flight number and arrival time and date at least two weeks in advance. Any members who are unable to accompany the group during the travel must make their own arrangements to join the group.

b. Group Movement

Mission members are required to move as a group during the I-OSM, and the implementing organization(s) will not be responsible for meeting personal requests. No mission members can withdraw from the I-OSM during its implementation without the written approval of the APO.

18. Evaluation Form and Final Report

Evaluation Form

The Evaluation Form should be completed by the mission group at the closing session or immediately after the completion of the mission and should be submitted to the APO.

Final Report

Within one month after the completion of the mission, the mission is required to prepare a **final report** on the project following the APO guidelines, particularly on the extent to which the objective(s) of the mission was met. The report should be submitted to the APO through the NPO of the sending country. The submission of this report will be taken into consideration when the APO makes any decision on individual-country programs for the NPO concerned.

19. Other Conditions

Other conditions for participation are given in the “APO Guide for Participants,” which is available on the APO website and from APO Liaison Officers or NPOs of sending countries.

20. Host Countries

Member countries may each host one or more missions during 2017. NPOs are encouraged to express their intentions to host missions as soon as possible for effective planning. When such offers to host missions are received by the APO Secretariat, all other member countries will be informed.



Santhi Kanoktanaporn
Secretary-General



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

Application Form

Individual-country Observational Study Missions

1. Title of study:

2. Objectives for Mission:

3. Number of Mission Members and profiles:

4. Proposed Itinerary and daily schedule:

Host Country

Arrival Date

Departure Date

5. Current Problems:
(Indicate current problems experienced in the area of proposed study and why this mission is essential.)

6. Details of Study Missions:
(These details, as well as the country report specified in APO Project Notification, should be specific and clear in order to develop a sound program.)

(a) Topics, in order priority:

(b) Types of organizations to be visited:
(Indicate specific names, if known)

(c) Other specific information needed, if any:

7. Physical Arrangements: (Indicate any particular requests as hereunder)

(a) Interpreter required: (Indicate languages involved)

(b) Others: (Indicate any other requirements/information.)

8. Follow-up activities after completion of the mission

Mission Leader (Signature)

Date:

9. Certification:

I certify that above information is based on in-country study made by the mission and represents the coordinated views and desire of all members. The proposed study is relevant to the needs of our country for improving productivity in the above field.

*APO Director/Alternate Director/Liaison Officer for
(Signature)*

Date:



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BIODATA

Individual-country Observational Study Missions

Title of Study :

A. Personal Information

1. Name:	Dr./Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms. Family name Other name	Attach Recent Photograph (3.5 x 4.5 cm)
2. Date of Birth:	Yr.: M: D:	
3. Nationality:		4. Sex: Male Female
5. Passport Particulars:		
(a) No:	(b) Date of Issue:	Yr.: M: D:
(c) Place of Issue:	(d) Valid till:	Yr.: M: D:
6. Dietary restrictions, If any		

B. Present Employment

7. Present Position			
8. Name & Address of Company/ Organization	Tel:	Fax:	E-Mail:
9. No. of Employees			
10. Type of Organization	Profit –making organization		Non Profit-making organization
11. Type of Business (in details)			

C. Present Job Duties/Activities

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D. Education and Training

University/ Institution	Major Field of Study	Certificate/Diploma/Degree	Year

E. Previous Employment/ Job Experience

Organization	Designation	Period	Job Duties

F. Please tick a mark

a) I am a Mission Leader. or b) I am a Mission Member.

Signature of the Participant
Date: _____

APO Director/Alternate Director/Liaison Officer for