



## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

22 December 2017

1. **Project Code** 17-RP-13-GE-RES-A
2. **Title** APO Productivity Databook and Database
3. **Timing and Duration** December 2017–November 2018 (one year)
4. **Venue** Participating member countries
5. **Number of Participating Countries** Nineteen national experts and one chief expert
6. **Closing Date for Nominations** 16 March 2018
7. **Objectives**
  - a. To monitor productivity trends and provide analysis of the most up-to-date socioeconomic performance in APO member and other reference economies based on the internationally harmonized methodology;
  - b. To update the APO Productivity Database (PDB) to include the latest estimates up to 2016 and revise the past data series of the PDB from 1970, based on the latest system of national accounts (2008SNA), for APO member and other reference economies;
  - c. To develop and improve the regional growth accounting frameworks for the entire APO membership and Asian region;
  - d. To improve the entries on outputs and labor and capital inputs for those APO members that have not developed growth accounting frameworks for total factor productivity (TFP) measurement;
  - e. To publish the 2018 edition of the *APO Productivity Databook*;
  - f. To conduct preliminary research for developing a new database on the productivity of cities (PDB-CITY) as an expansion of the PDB allowing international comparisons of productivity data among Asian and other reference cities;
  - g. To expand nationwide databases covering potential APO members in the region, such as Myanmar, and evaluate the data quality; and

- h. To conduct the next phase of development and maintenance of the Asian Economy and Productivity Map (AEPM) to facilitate the use of APO data as a reference source by policymakers, development planners, economic analysts, NPOs, and other stakeholders within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region.

## **8. Background**

Development planners, economic analysts, and policymakers rely on economic statistics, including productivity data, to analyze socioeconomic progress and set goals for potential growth in the future. To support the needs of such stakeholders and fulfill its think tank and regional adviser roles, the APO has conducted research on productivity measurement and developed the comprehensive PDB since 2007.

The research collects and examines data and evaluates their quality to develop the PDB under an internationally harmonized measurement framework, allowing cross-country productivity analyses. These data have been updated, expanded, and published annually in two main forms of research output, the *APO Productivity Databook* series and the APO PDB on the website, since 2008. This research project has also produced the Asian Quarterly Growth Map, an online tool illustrating the quarterly economic growth of APO members since 2009. A new system of data visualization, the AEPM, covering a wealth of data concerning quarterly economic growth and annual productivity indicators, is also being fine-tuned and updated for increased user friendliness.

The APO has gradually gained a reputation as a reliable international productivity data authority, and prominent business and economic analysts and policymakers refer to both the *Productivity Databook* and PDB. APO data are also cited in economic journals and academic papers. It is envisioned that the project will provide more extensive data and information in the *APO Productivity Databook* series so that it becomes a main source of productivity statistics for regional policymakers.

## **9. Scope and Methodology**

### **Scope**

- a. Sources of economic growth, covering labor productivity, capital productivity, and TFP;
- b. Industry origins of economic growth, including sector-based analysis of productivity, employment, and price competitiveness;
- c. Analysis of labor quality changes to capture a more accurate picture of productivity levels;
- d. Analysis of energy productivity and carbon intensity of energy to depict sustainable development status;
- e. Expanded perspectives of productivity analysis, such as the productivity of cities to examine the effectiveness of smart city policies; and
- f. Maintaining and updating the AEPM.

## **Methodology**

- a. Data collection by national experts following the APO Productivity Measurement Questionnaires;
- b. Data processing and analysis involving examination, adjustment, harmonization, estimation, and computation of productivity growth by a research team under the supervision and guidance of the chief expert; and
- c. Research collaboration.

## **10. Qualifications of National Experts**

To ensure continuity and maximize efficient knowledge accumulation for the research, national experts from the databook research project in 2016 will be given priority for this project. NPOs are expected to nominate the same experts, subject to their availability.

The qualifications of national experts for this project are:

- a. Government statisticians from national statistics offices or central banks of member countries with comprehensive knowledge of **national accounts, labor statistics, and industry data**.
- b. Sufficient English proficiency to communicate with the APO Secretariat and the chief expert on technical statistical issues.
- c. Given the degree of professional knowledge required for the statistical data collection and level of technical expertise required to analyze responses to the APO questionnaires involved in this project, the APO Secretariat may also directly invite national experts from suitable departments/divisions handling national accounts data in consultation with the NPOs concerned.

## **11. Chief Expert**

The APO will appoint a chief expert for this project to lead the team of researchers and national experts. The chief expert will assume management, advisory, and supervisory roles in the project and be responsible for producing the 2018 edition of the *APO Productivity Databook*, which is expected to be delivered by September 2018, as well as the APO PDB in Excel format and AEPM on the APO website.

## **12. Financial Arrangements**

### **To be borne by the APO**

- a. Honoraria for the chief expert and national experts upon completion of the project; and
- b. All assignment and relevant research costs, including for additional data collection and purchases when applicable.

**To be borne by the host country(ies) in case of expert meetings and research missions**  
Local implementation costs, when applicable.

### **13. Actions by Member Countries**

- a. Member countries are requested to nominate candidate national experts by 16 March 2018 after communication and consultation with the Secretariat.
- b. Each nomination should be submitted on the APO expert biodata form and be accompanied by a recent passport-sized photograph of the candidate.
- c. The selection of experts will be based strictly upon professional qualifications, experience, academic background, and commitment to this project.

### **14. Actions by the APO Secretariat**

- a. Under normal circumstances, candidates who are selected will be informed of their acceptance at least four weeks prior to the start of the project.
- b. If some candidates do not meet the criteria or be unable to participate after selection, or if some member countries fail to nominate any candidate, the APO will request another nomination or advice on potential candidates.

### **15. Project Preparation**

The selected national experts will be given instructions by the chief expert via e-mail and sent the APO Productivity Measurement Questionnaires and accompanying explanatory notes detailing the data requirements for the project. The national experts are required to provide relevant data based on the questionnaires and instructions. The chief expert will assess the data and information submitted by the national experts and report to the APO Secretariat on the performance of each national expert, which will be reflected in the final honoraria payments.



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Secretary-General