



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

15 March 2018

1. **Project Code** 18-RP-18-GE-WSP-B
2. **Title** Workshop on Developing Strategies for Enhancing Global Competitiveness and Productivity Growth
3. **Timing and Duration** 28–31 August 2018 (four days)
4. **Venue** Taipei, Republic of China
5. **Implementing Organization**
China Productivity Center (CPC)
Address: 2F., No. 79, Sec. 1,
Xintai 5th Road, Xizhi District
New Taipei City 221, Republic of China
Phone: 886-2-2698-2989
Fax: 886-2-2698-2976
e-Mail: 2844@cpc.org.tw
Website: www.cpc.org.tw
6. **Number of Overseas Participants**
Up to 18 qualified participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam

However, other member countries with particular interest in this project may nominate candidates upon consultation with the Secretariat.
7. **Number of Local Participants** Up to six qualified participants
8. **Closing Date for Nominations** 6 July 2018
9. **Objectives**
 - a. To review the strengths and weaknesses of national competitiveness among APO member countries;
 - b. To discuss the role of different actors in national competitiveness enhancement;
 - c. To exchange effective policy initiatives in driving innovation for productivity enhancement and national competitiveness strengthening; and
 - d. To develop strategies enhancing the competitiveness performance and global rankings of APO member countries.

10. Background

Sustaining and enhancing global competitiveness are common goals of APO member countries. Among the three main goals under the Roadmap to Achieve the APO Vision 2020,

raising the competitiveness of member countries is strategic target number two. The Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) of the World Economic Forum is used as one indicator to monitor the competitiveness of APO member countries. This average ranking is expected to improve by five points by 2020 with the support that the APO will give to member countries in areas that contribute to their competitiveness.

Assessing a country's competitiveness is a challenging task. There is a range of results and findings on the factors supporting and hindering competitiveness. Of particular note is that a review of the three lowest-ranking pillars in individual APO member countries through the assessment of their rankings in the GCI reveals common weaknesses in global competitiveness as a region. Striving to be more competitive and addressing the challenge from the productivity angle, the approach must be holistic but cover diverse dimensions in which APO member countries tend to rank lower such as macroeconomic environment, labor market efficiency, and technological readiness.

Theoretical and empirical evidence shows that many factors matter in competitiveness. Among the APO20, the most competitive are labeled as in transition to becoming innovation-driven economies, while the rest are in the efficiency-driven or factor-driven stage. As economies progress, further gains in competitiveness increasingly require innovation. Recent studies have also revealed that national competitiveness has shifted the comparative advantage of economies toward the factors of science, technology and innovation. National prosperity growth is the ultimate result of competitiveness improvement and productivity growth, which stem from the development of innovative capacity. This so-called innovation imperative confirms that innovation-driven productivity growth matters for competitiveness enhancement.

The roles of various actors differ in national competitiveness enhancement. General conditions affecting productivity growth and competitiveness tend to be under the control of national governments, while many direct drivers are often the result of involvement by many government agencies, the private sector, academia, and other institutions. A four-day workshop bringing together policymakers from member countries will enrich their understanding of national strengths and weaknesses in reference to neighboring countries and the importance of innovation-driven factors. The rigorous, pragmatic inputs will contribute to more informed policymaking agendas, along with the crafting of better strategies for enhancing global competitiveness rankings and productivity performance in APO member countries.

11. Scope and Methodology

Scope

- a. Defining national competitiveness and its pillars;
- b. Measurement of competitiveness and its indicators;
- c. The GCI and Global Innovation Index (GII);
- d. The role of productivity in factor-driven competitiveness, efficiency-driven competitiveness, innovation-driven competitiveness, and sustainable productivity for the future;
- e. Innovation imperative for productivity growth and competitiveness enhancement;
- f. Innovation-driven growth models and policy implications;
- g. Role of different actors in strengthening national competitiveness; and
- h. Effective policies and programs for increased national competitiveness.

Methodology

The workshop will consist of presentations and case studies by resource persons, country paper presentations, knowledge-sharing sessions, group discussion among participants; and site visits.

The tentative program of the workshop is given below:

Date/Time	Activity
Mon., 27 August 2018	Arrival of participants in Taipei
Tues., 28 August	Opening session Session 1: Defining national competitiveness and its pillars Presentation 1: Measurement of competitiveness and its indicators Presentation 2: The GCI and GII Presentation 3: Strengths and weaknesses of national competitiveness in the APO20
Wed., 29 August	Session 2: Innovation-driven productivity growth for competitiveness enhancement Presentation 4: The role of productivity in factor-driven competitiveness, efficiency-driven competitiveness, and innovation-driven competitiveness Presentation 5: Innovation imperative for productivity growth and competitiveness enhancement Presentation 6: Innovation-driven growth models and policy implications Presentations of country papers
Thurs., 30 August	Session 3: Policy initiatives and best practices in driving innovation for productivity enhancement and national competitiveness strengthening Presentation 7: Role of different actors in strengthening national competitiveness Presentation 8: Policies and programs for national competitiveness Field visits to relevant organizations
Fri., 31 August	Session 4: Developing strategies for enhancing global competitiveness Group discussions on strategies for enhancing global competitiveness and productivity growth Output presentations Program evaluation Closing session
Sat., 1 September	Departure of participants and resource persons

12. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Present Position	High-ranking government officials responsible for formulating policies and programs for national competitiveness enhancement, innovation policies, and national productivity growth.
Experience	At least three years of experience in the position described above.
Education	University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university/institution.
Language	All proceedings of the project are conducted in English, and participants are frequently required to make oral and written presentations. They must therefore be proficient in spoken and written English. Those who are not proficient in English will not be accepted.
Health	Physically and mentally fit to attend an intensive project requiring participants to complete a number of individual and group activities and strenuous fieldwork. It is therefore recommended that

member countries do not nominate candidates likely to suffer from physical and mental stress.

Age Candidates who fit the above profile are typically between 30 and 55 years of age.

Attendance Participants are required to attend the entire program.

13. Financial Arrangements

a. Airfare

The APO will bear the cost of round-trip economy-class international airfare between the international airport nearest to the participants' place of work and Taipei, ROC.

The APO will only reimburse discount air tickets for the most direct route. Participants should note that the arrangements for the purchase of air tickets should follow the "Guide on Purchases of Air Tickets for APO Participants," which will be sent to the selected participants and is also available on the APO website and from APO Liaison Officers in member countries.

b. Insurance Coverage

Participants' insurance premiums: All participants should be fully insured against accident and illness (including hospitalization and death) for a principal sum equivalent to USD10,000.00 for the entire duration of the project and travel and must submit to the APO Secretariat a copy of the comprehensive travel insurance certificate before participation. Such insurance should be valid in the host country. This insurance requirement is in addition to existing government insurance coverage in some member countries. If any participant is unable to insure himself/herself as stipulated above, he/she should secure this insurance in the host country at the commencement of the project and pay the premium himself/herself, if necessary, from the per diem allowance provided. Neither the APO nor the implementing organization will be responsible for any eventuality arising from accident, illness, acts of war, force majeure, or any unexpected events beyond human control such as those related to natural disasters.

c. Cost Sharing

Subject to the conditions stated in the Financial Arrangements section, the following table shows the cost-sharing arrangements between the APO, host country, and participants or participating countries.

Cost item	Cost to be borne by		
	Participants or participating countries	Host country	APO
Round-trip economy-class international airfare (refer to paragraph 13a)	No	No	Yes
Participating Country Expenses (PCEs)	NA	NA	NA
Hotel accommodation in Taipei	No	Yes	No
Per diem allowance in Taipei	No	Yes	No
Transportation costs to and from hotel and airport in Taipei	No	Yes	No
Insurance coverage in the ROC (refer to paragraph 13b)	Yes	No	No
Any expenses related to visa fees and airport taxes	Yes	No	No
All expenses incurred by participants for any	Yes	No	No

Cost item	Cost to be borne by		
	Participants or participating countries	Host country	APO
reason including but not limited to: a. Stopovers b. Extension of stay c. Early arrival or late departure d. Flight cancellation			
Any cancellation charges for expenses such as airfare and accommodations incurred by the APO or host country after issuance of Letters of Acceptance	Yes	No	No
Assignment costs of international resource persons	NA	No	Yes
Assignment costs of local resource persons	NA	Yes	No
All local implementation costs including but not limited to: a. Meeting rooms b. Documentation c. Preparatory costs	NA	Yes	No

14. Actions by Member Countries

- a. Each participating country is requested to nominate three or more candidates in the order of preference. Please ensure that candidates nominated meet the qualifications specified under section 12 above.
- b. No form of self-nomination will be accepted. All nominations must be endorsed and submitted by an APO Director, Alternative Director, Liaison Officer, or their designated officer.
- c. Please note that nomination of a candidate does not necessarily guarantee that he/she will be selected. Selection is at the discretion of the APO Secretariat. A basic criterion for selection is the homogeneity of the participants in terms of qualifications and work experience. Nonselection therefore does not mean that the candidates concerned are not competent enough. Sometimes candidates are not selected because they are overqualified for a project.
- d. Each nomination should be accompanied by the necessary documents. A nomination lacking any of these documents may not be considered: two copies of the candidate's biodata on the APO biodata form together with a passport-sized photograph. The biodata form can be downloaded from the APO website (www.apo-tokyo.org). We encourage submitting the biodata form to the APO Secretariat in electronic form as an attachment to a cover e-mail message from the APO Director, Alternate Director, or Liaison Officer. The nomination documents should be sent to the Research and Planning Department, APO Secretariat (e-mail: rp@apo-tokyo.org, fax: 81-3-5840-5324).
- e. The APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form. Every candidate must complete and submit a copy of the APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form with his/her biodata at the time of nomination. Please note that self-declaration is sufficient for candidates without any of health conditions or illnesses listed on the reverse side of the medical form. However, for all others, medical certification by a licensed physician on the reverse side of the medical form is required.
- f. Necessary documents are to be submitted electronically. In that case, there is no need to send a hard copy by postal mail. However, if the documents are submitted by fax, member countries are requested to mail the originals of the documents to the APO

Secretariat as well. If a digital photograph of a nominee is not attached to the electronic biodata form, a hard-copy photograph should be sent to the APO Secretariat by postal mail. Please give the candidate's name and the project code on the reverse side of the photograph.

- g. Member countries are requested to adhere to the nomination deadline given on page 1. The APO Secretariat may not consider late nominations as they have in the past resulted in considerable difficulties to the implementing organization in its preparatory work for the project.
- h. For member countries where nominations are required to be approved by higher government authorities and require a longer time, the APO Liaison Officers/NPOs are urged to send the names of nominees on or before the deadline, indicating that government approval will follow.
- i. If a selected participant becomes unable to attend, he/she should inform the APO Liaison Officer/NPO in his/her country immediately and give the reason for withdrawal. The NPO concerned is requested to transmit that information to the APO Secretariat and the host country promptly.
- j. NPOs are requested to inform the selected participants that they are not to bring family members or to engage in any private business activities during the entire duration of the project.
- k. Each selected participant should be instructed to arrive at the venue one day before the start of the official project. Also, he/she is expected to return home upon completion of the official project because he/she is visiting the host country for the specific purpose of attending this APO workshop.
- l. NPOs should inform participants that they must attend all four days of the project.
- m. NPOs should assist the APO and/or host country in collecting amounts corresponding to cancellation charges arising from withdrawal or no-show of a participant.

15. 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 fail to qualify or be unable to participate after selection, or if some member countries fail to nominate any candidate, their slots may be filled by alternates from the same or another member country on a merit basis.

16. Project Preparation

Participants are required to prepare a paper prior to departure for the project venue. In preparing the paper, they are expected to follow the attached "Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Papers."

17. Postproject Actions

All participants are required to prepare action plans and share the plans with their NPOs. The APO will also request participants to submit progress reports six months after completion of the workshop.

18. Evaluation of Participants

If the conduct/attendance/performance of a participant is not satisfactory, these will be reported to the APO director concerned.

19. Guide for Participants

Other conditions for participation are given in the *APO Guide for Participants*, which is available from APO Liaison Officers/NPOs in member countries and on the APO website (www.apo-tokyo.org).

20. Dress Code

Participants are required to wear business attire during the project. Other instructions will be provided in the circular for participants.



Santhi Kanoktanaporn
Secretary-General

18-RP-18-GE-WSP-B:

Workshop on Developing Strategies for Enhancing Global Competitiveness and
Productivity Growth
28–31 August 2018, Taipei, Republic of China

Guidelines for Preparation of Country Papers

Participants in this workshop are expected to prepare and present country papers keeping in mind the objectives, scope, and proposed outline below. The fundamental objective of country papers is to give an overall view of national competitiveness performance, policy initiatives, and their impact on national competitiveness and productivity growth in APO member countries.

Proposed Outline of Country Papers

1. Overview of national competitiveness performance and its strengths and weaknesses with illustrations by global ranking, competitiveness measurement indicators, etc.;
2. The role of innovation in driving national productivity growth and competitiveness;
3. Role of governments in strengthening in national competitiveness; and
4. National policy initiatives and effective practices in driving innovation for productivity enhancement and national competitiveness strengthening.

The country papers should be printed out, single-spaced, on standard A4-sized paper and be between 3 and 5 pages in length, excluding tables/figures. Each participant should prepare a PowerPoint file for presentation of the country paper. A soft copy of the country paper and PowerPoint file should reach the APO (hngo@apo-tokyo.org, aohara@apo-tokyo.org), and CPC (2844@cpc.org.tw) **no later than 17 August 2018**. All participants are expected to make a PowerPoint presentation of 10 minutes including a Q&A session. The presentations should focus only on the main points of the country paper. It is suggested that participants organize their presentations based on the topical outline above.