



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.:20-IN-95-GE-CON-A-PN2000046-003

Date of Issue	08 January 2021
Project Code	20-IN-95-GE-CON-A
Title	Conference on Blockchain Solutions for Productivity
Timing and Duration	25 February 2021 (one day)
Hosting Country(ies)	Republic of Korea
Modality	Digital Multicountry (DMC)
Implementing Organization(s)	Korea Productivity Center and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	100
Local Participants	30
Closing Date for Nominations	31 January 2021

Notes: This PN supersedes the PN issued on 9 December 2019 due to a change in implementation modality from face-to-face to digital sessions.

1. Objectives

- a. Sharing current best practices of blockchain technology in enhancing productivity;
- b. Exploring the potential implementation of blockchain technologies and solutions tailored to the needs of various economic sectors; and
- c. Examining the future of blockchain in improving firm-level operational efficiency and effectiveness.

2. Background

Blockchain has been identified as a key technology pillar by *Plattform Industrie 4.0* and McKinsey Consulting. The system ensures the integrity of a data record. This means that records in the blockchain cannot be altered once they are registered. This assurance provides great upside potential to sectors such as education, banking, finance, securities, and insurance logistics as well as public services in general. Another emerging trend is the establishment of a blockchain-based ecosystem platform which by virtue of the fact that it is truly decentralized, ensures maximum privacy and security for clients' data. In addition, it will also help enterprises prevent malicious attacks from hackers.

The rate of adoption of blockchain technology is uneven across APO member countries. Japan and Korea are leaders in the blockchain revolution, with the fast adoption of blockchain technology across not just the banking, financial services, and insurance industries but also in traditional industries such as shipping and logistics. All countries, however, face challenges in addressing the wide-ranging implications of blockchains and prioritizing targets, resources, and policy measures for digital transformation are timely. It is thus necessary to establish a holistic understanding of blockchain solutions and develop strategies in response to the opportunities and challenges.

In conclusion, productivity could be greatly enhanced through blockchain applications in various economic sectors. Blockchain technology could potentially make digital credential management seamless and tamper-proof. These topics will be further explored in this conference as they will be increasingly important in the post-pandemic world.

3. Modality of Implementation

- a. The sessions will be conducted virtually.
- b. The duration of the sessions will be around three hours.
- c. The APO Secretariat will inform the resource persons and participants of the link to the virtual sessions.
- d. The link will be exclusive to resource persons and participants and should not be shared.

4. Scope and Methodology

The sessions will consist of the following:

Day/Date	Activity
Thursday, 25 February 2021	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blockchain-driven Productivity in a Global AI Ecosystem • Blockchains and Industry 4.0: Creation of a New Marketplace Based on Distributed Consensus • Blockchain and Fintech: Cryptofinance, Examples of Use, and Potential Issues to Resolve • Smart Cities Driven by Blockchain Solutions: Decentralizing Smart City Data Management through Distributed Consensus Algorithms • Universal Portability of Education Credentials: The Future of Digital, Tamper-proof Transcripts and Diplomas Panel Discussions

5. Qualifications of Candidates

Participants must be competent in connecting to virtual meetings, including independently undertaking troubleshooting in the event of poor or lost connections. They must also be proficient in English, both written and spoken. Specific requirements are as follows:

- a. Government officials involved in blockchains or blockchain-related industrial policy, academics in universities and research institutes responsible for blockchain R&D, founders of blockchain companies/startups, etc.
- b. Two years of experience or more in the position described above.

6. Requirement

- a. Have necessary devices comprising a computer, web camera, microphone, and speaker or headphones.
- b. Access to Internet connections suitable for videoconferencing. Stable, wired LAN connections are preferred.
- c. Follow the instructions of the moderators/presenters in asking questions, joining discussions, and answering questions.
- d. Participate in all sessions.

7. Financial Arrangements

- a. The APO will meet the assignment costs for international resource persons.
- b. The host country will meet the assignment costs of local resource persons and for a virtual site visit(s), either broadcast live or recorded as applicable.

8. Actions by Member Countries

- a. Each participating country will nominate five or more candidates in order of preference.
- b. Self-nominations will not be accepted.
- c. All nominations must be endorsed by an APO Director or Alternate Director and submitted by a Liaison Officer or designated officer.
- d. Each nomination must be accompanied by the APO biodata form and uploaded to the APO Document Management System (DMS)/Fleekdrive by the NPO. The biodata form is available

on the APO website.

- e. Late nominations will not be accepted. When a nomination requires the approval of higher authorities and requires a longer time, the member country concerned should send the name(s) of the nominee(s) before or by the deadline, indicating that approval will follow.
- f. If a selected participant becomes unable to participate, the NPO concerned should inform the APO Secretariat and the host country promptly.

9. Actions by the APO Secretariat

- a. Selection of candidates will be at the discretion of the Participant Selection Committee of the APO Secretariat.
- b. Selection of candidates will be completed and announced two weeks prior to the start of the sessions.
- c. Slots that become available due to withdrawal of a selected candidate(s) or lack of nominations by a member country may be filled by alternates to be selected on a merit basis.
- d. The APO Secretariat will inform NPOs of the final program and link of the virtual sessions one week prior to commencement.

10. Dress Code

Participants are required to wear appropriate attire during the sessions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. AKP Mochtan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General