



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.:20-RP-25-GE-CON-A-PN2100002-001

Date of Issue	26 February 2021
Project Code	20-RP-25-GE-CON-A
Title	Conference on Emerging Technologies for Productivity Enhancement
Timing and Duration	8 April 2021 (one day)
Hosting Country(ies)	Malaysia
Modality	Digital Multicountry (DMC)
Implementing Organization(s)	Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	100
Local Participants	30
Closing Date for Nominations	18 March 2021

Notes: This PN supersedes the PN issued on 20 January 2020 due to a change in implementation modality from face-to-face to digital sessions.

1. Objectives

- a. Provide participants with the latest information on contributions of disruptive technologies to productivity enhancement.
- b. Share insights on the latest developments in disruptive technologies and their trends and potential applications in the future.
- c. Share best practices on successful adoption of disruptive technologies for transformation of businesses and as enablers of new productivity growth and national economies.

2. Background

Emerging technologies are innovations that uproot an established technology or revolutionary products or services that can spawn entirely new industries. New technologies and their integration into the economy have been central to long-term productivity growth. Recent innovative technologies such as the personal computer or the internet, while inconceivable prior to their diffusion, are now central pillars of contemporary life. Now technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchains, and autonomous vehicles, just to cite few examples, appear likely to transform industries and societies in the coming decades. To fully leverage these technologies and enhance productivity, it is important to understand their fundamentals and prospective applications in the economy and society.

New technologies have the potential to radically impact labor productivity in the long term. This can mean a transformative impact on jobs and the very nature of work, enabling new styles of work, business, and life. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how important digital technology can be in maintaining business continuity and transformation even amid a global crisis. However, for these new technologies to contribute fully to the economy and society, it is important to manage the risks and opportunities they present through smart regulations. Policymakers and other stakeholders in the region should ensure that the benefits of new technology are distributed across firms, sectors, and wider society.

This conference will present the insights of experts and practitioners in the field, share new ideas to harness emerging technologies through successful cases and applications, and explore ways to leverage them for further productivity enhancement, successful business transformation, and new economic growth.

3. Modality of Implementation

- a. The sessions will be conducted virtually.
- b. The duration of the sessions will be around four 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 presentations by experts, group discussions, and other relevant learning methods. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

- Understanding and governing emerging technologies for productivity enhancement
- The impact of automation on workers: Life inside the factory
- Cellular Agriculture: Policy and regulatory frameworks supporting the future of food
- Looking ahead: The role of science and technology foresight in the public and private sectors for managing emerging technologies
- Managing emerging technology in the Asia-Pacific

The detailed program and list of speakers will be provided with the names of selected participants two weeks prior to the sessions.

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. Policymakers and government officials from science, technology, and innovation agencies; and personnel involved in public-private partnership schemes using new technology in the industry as well as from agencies and departments involved in higher education, technical and vocational education, and reskilling.
- b. Two years of experience or more in the position described above.

6. Requirements

- 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 overseas 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 business 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