



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

3 October 2013

1. **Project Code** 13-RP-01-GE-RES-A/C
2. **Title** Research for APO Productivity Databook
3. **Timing and Duration** October 2013–September 2014 (one year)
4. **Venue** Participating member countries
5. **Number of Participating Countries** Nineteen national experts and one chief expert
6. **Closing Date for Nominations** 31 October 2013

### 7. Objectives

- a. To monitor the productivity trends and socioeconomic performance of member economies by conducting an annual survey with the use of internationally harmonized methodology;
- b. To provide analysis of the most up-to-date socioeconomic performance and productivity trends, as well as potential economic growth to facilitate understanding of the productivity trends and economic performance of APO member economies and other reference economies;
- c. To facilitate the use of APO data as a reference source by policymakers, development planners, economic analysts, NPOs, and other stakeholders within and beyond APO member economies;
- d. To increase the visibility of the APO through the 2014 edition of the *APO Productivity Databook* and updated dataset for the APO Productivity Database and Asian Quarterly Growth Map (AQGM);
- e. To develop new mobile applications for APO data to enhance the visibility of project outputs; and
- f. To expand the database to cover potential APO members in the region.

### 8. Background

Development planners, economic analysts, and policymakers rely on productivity and economic statistics to analyze socioeconomic progress and set development goals to target

potential economic growth for the future. To support the needs of such stakeholders and its think tank and regional adviser roles, the APO conducts research on productivity measurement in collaboration with Keio University. The research gathers and examines data to develop the productivity database under an internationally harmonized measurement framework, allowing cross-country productivity analysis. These data are updated, expanded, and published annually in two main forms of research output: the *APO Productivity Databook* series and APO Productivity Database on the APO website. The APO has been gradually gaining the status of a credible international data authority, and prominent business and economic analysts and policymakers refer to both the databook and database. APO data are also used and cited in economic journals and academic papers.

## 9. Scope and Methodology

### Scope:

- a. Analysis of sources of supply-side economic growth (labor productivity, capital productivity, and total factor productivity, along with the roles of capital accumulation and labor input);
- b. Analysis of sources of demand-side economic growth (import substitution, export orientation, domestic consumption, fixed capital formation, real income, etc.);
- c. Analysis of industry origins of economic growth (sector-based analysis of employment, productivity, and price competitiveness);
- d. Analysis of the role of human capital or labor quality; and
- e. Projection of future potential economic growth.

### Methodology:

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

## 10. Qualifications of National Experts

To ensure continuity and maximize efficient knowledge accumulation for the research, national experts of the databook research project in 2012 shall be given priority for this project. NPOs are expected to nominate the same experts, subject to their availability.

The qualifications requested for national experts for this project are as follows:

- a. Government statisticians from national statistics offices or central banks of member countries with comprehensive knowledge of national accounts, labor statistics, and productivity.
- 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 analysis required in response 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 the group of national experts in the research. The chief expert assumes management, advisory, and supervisory roles in the project and is responsible for producing the 2014 edition of the *APO Productivity Databook*, which is expected to be delivered by September 2014, as well as the APO Productivity Database in Excel format and AQGM 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 pertinent research costs including additional data collection and purchases, where applicable.

### **To be borne by the host country(ies) in case of expert meetings and research missions**

Local implementation costs, where applicable.

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

- a. Member countries are requested to nominate candidate national experts after communication and consultation with the Secretariat by 31 October 2013.
- 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 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.

## **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.



Mari Amano  
Secretary-General