PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-CP-19-GE-DLN-A-PN2100070-001

Date of Issue	04 September 2021
Project Code	21-CP-19-GE-DLN-A
Title	Self-learning e-Course on Applying Scientific Knowledge for the Public Sector
Launch Date	30 November 2021
Hosting Country(ies)	APO Secretariat
Modality	Digital Learning
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	Open
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Qualifications of Participants	Open
Nomination of Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date for Nominations	Not Applicable

1. Objectives

    a. Understand the importance of scientific literacy for the public sector.

    b. Identify key policy areas where scientific and technological knowledge is critical in formulating effective public action.

    c. Enhance the capability of participants in using scientific knowledge in developing innovation- and science-related policy.

2. Background

Advances in scientific knowledge and technological innovation are deeply connected to economic growth, social well-being, and productivity. The growing role and applications of science create challenges and opportunities for public policy formulation. Some examples where science-related knowledge is imperative to include climate change mitigation and the impact of AI and big data on social and work life, which underline that solutions to many of the world's most pressing problems require access to frontier scientific knowledge. Scientific knowledge has therefore become essential to good policymaking on local, national, and international scales.

Another case in point is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Understanding and managing the COVID-19 crisis have required scientific knowledge across many areas from crafting public health information campaigns to researching treatments. This is happening amid one of the downsides of the digital age where misinformation is rampant. Scientific research findings are easily misrepresented, inaccurate information about the virus spreads quickly, and media coverage may be sensationalized or distorted. These patterns are likely to play out in other policy areas as well.

For the public sector to meet the demands of citizens, its employees must be scientifically literate. This means that they can critically assess and evaluate scientific information and its credibility without the need to be experts. Scientific literacy involves not only basic knowledge of facts but also an understanding of scientific processes and practices, how scientists work, and the capacity to evaluate research results. Public-sector professionals should be able to incorporate science and technology in policy design. An up-to-date understanding of key issues in policy, science, and technology will help public-sector professionals to better manage and work within innovation ecosystems and design effective policies to enhance long-term productivity growth.

This course will offer the skills and knowledge needed for public-sector professionals to navigate the interface among science, technology, and policy in public service, research agencies, professional associations, and public communications. It will explore key issues involving science and technology and provide a framework for understanding their links to public policy.

3. Modality of Implementation

    a. The course is offered through the APO e-learning platform: http://eAPO-tokyo.org

    b. Participants should register on this portal and create their own accounts.

    c. Certificates of completion will be provided for those who satisfactorily complete all the modules of the course, including quizzes and a final examination.

4. Scope and Methodology

The course will comprise five modules:

Module 1:
Interface among science, technology, and public policy

Module 2:
Data science and AI in the public sector

Module 3:
Barriers and opportunities for energy technology

Module 4:
Advances in biomedical research and life sciences

Module 5:
Privacy-preserving technologies and blockchains

Final examination

Methodology
Module study, additional study material for participants, quizzes for self-assessment, and a final examination.

5. Requirements

a. Have necessary devices and software comprising a computer/smartphone, updated browser, microphone, and speaker or headphones.

b. Access to internet connections.

c. Completion of all the modules, quizzes, and final examination.

d. The APO e-certificate will be given to participants who score a minimum of 70% on the final examination.

6. Financial Arrangements

The APO will meet the assignment costs for resource persons to develop the course modules including quizzes and a final examination.

7. Actions by Member Countries

a. Promote the courses nationwide.

b. Provide the link to the APO e-learning platform on the NPO's website and social network services.

8. Actions by the APO Secretariat

a. Identify and assign the resource person(s) to develop the course.

b. Announce course commencement on the APO website and social network services.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General