

Asian Productivity Organization

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PROJECT NOTIFICATION

27 September 2012

1. **Project Code:** 12-RP-03-GE-RES-A
2. **Title:** APO Productivity Database
3. **Duration & Timing:** October 2012–September 2013
4. **Venue:** APO Secretariat
5. **Implementing Organization:** APO Secretariat
6. **Closing Date for Nomination of National Experts:** NA
7. **Objectives:**
 - (1) To monitor the productivity trends and socioeconomic performance of member economies by conducting an annual survey with the use of internationally harmonized methodology;
 - (2) To maintain the updated APO Productivity Database of selected internationally harmonized productivity and socioeconomic indicators to support the APO Secretariat and member governments in program/project planning and policy formulation, respectively; and
 - (3) To support the data requirements of the *APO Productivity Databook* and the Asian Quarterly Growth Map (AQGM).

8. **Background:**

The Productivity Database project is a major research activity for productivity measurement and monitoring in the APO membership. The project conducts an annual survey to collect basic socioeconomic data on both member and nonmember economies and makes necessary data estimations to tackle the issue of data unavailability. The main output of the research is the web-based APO Productivity Database and the AQGM. It also produces the basic data for the *APO Productivity Databook* project. The research target in 2012 is to improve data on quality-adjusted labor inputs, capital stock, capital services, and investment, which will allow total factor productivity (TFP) analyses with more coverage, alongside the core in-depth research. This year, the project will also initiate the development of an efficient, sustainable data management system.

The APO Productivity Database project continues to serve as a key authoritative source of productivity information for APO members and stakeholders. The project is being implemented as a joint research effort with Keio University. The data and information generated under this project have been referred to in prominent economic journals and

government policy papers. The project aims to continue offering useful data and information enabling both public and private policymakers to identify the changing needs of economic development and formulate appropriate policy directions.

9. Provisional Scope and Methodology:

Scope:

1. Construction of a methodological framework for data harmonization;
2. Research on benchmarks and annual data revisions;
3. Data collection, compilation, examination, and adjustment for member and nonmember economies;
4. Data estimation for nonexistent data for member economies;
5. Backward estimates to construct a long time-series database;
6. Development of the Fortran data management system; and
7. In-depth research on capital stock, capital services, investment, and labor inputs for TFP computation.

Methodology:

Research work done by the team under the supervision and guidance of the project manager-cum-chief expert.

10. Research Team Members:

The APO Secretariat appoints the project manager-cum-chief expert and special consultants. The chief expert shall constitute the team of researchers, based strictly on the qualifications required, in consultation with the APO Secretariat.

11. Qualifications of Research Team Members:

(a) Project Manager-cum-Chief Expert:

1. Internationally recognized productivity and productivity measurement specialist;
2. Extensive research experience and achievements in developing a productivity database, with numerous publications on relevant topics in recognized international and domestic journals and academic publications;
3. Extensive networking with academic productivity societies and with practitioners in pertinent fields; and
4. Fluency in both spoken and written English.

(b) Special Consultants:

Internationally recognized "gurus" of productivity measurement and productivity research.

(c) Researchers:

1. Recognized professional accreditation in economics and econometrics, with specialization in productivity and productivity measurement;
2. Excellent knowledge of data collection and mechanisms of national accounts as well as general structure and system of national statistics;
3. Experience in research on productivity and productivity measurement; and
4. Excellent skills in data compilation and analysis, with knowledge of the OECD database.

12. Research Team:

It is planned that the following will constitute the core research team members to undertake the research work:

- (a) Project Manager-cum-Chief Expert: Dr. Koji Nomura (Associate Professor, Keio University)
- (b) Special Consultants: Dr. Dale W. Jorgenson (Professor, Harvard University)
- Dr. Erwin W. Diewert (Professor, University of British Columbia)
- (c) Researchers: To be determined

13. Responsibilities of Research Team:

(a) Project Manager-cum-Chief Expert:

The project manager-cum-chief expert is responsible for overall project management and implementation of the project research work, and the duties include:

1. Facilitate and coordinate cooperation and communication between the APO, Keio University, special consultants, and other pertinent research partners;
2. Provide direction and guidance to research team members in the conduct of the research work;
3. Review and update the APO productivity measurement methodology;
4. Prepare a set of 2013 APO Productivity Measurement Questionnaires;
5. Supervise the work of research team in data collection, examination, comparability assessment and adjustment;
6. Ensure timely delivery of outputs for the APO Productivity Database, comprising the Economy-wide and Industry Database and the AQGM;
7. Develop a new, sustainable data management system; and
8. Provide professional and technical advice in response to queries on the APO Productivity Database.

(b) Special Consultants:

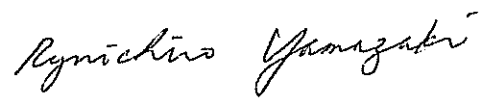
1. Advise and guide the project manager-cum-chief expert on productivity measurement methodology;
2. Provide academic and technical advice on productivity measurement and data analyses;
3. Provide state-of-the-art information and pertinent advice on international and regional productivity measurement projects in other international institutes in relation to the APO project; and
4. Cooperate in developing partnerships with pertinent researchers and research institutes where necessary for expanding the database.

(c) Researchers:

1. Assist in examining the methodology and data availability;
2. Conduct research work, under the directions and instructions given by the project manager-cum-chief expert, to generate quality research outcomes through data collection and pertinent research activities; and
3. Assist in research report writing.

14. Financial Arrangements:

All project-related costs will be borne by the APO.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ryuichiro Yamazaki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line through the middle of the characters.

Ryuichiro Yamazaki
Secretary-General