



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

5 November 2015

1. **Project Code** 15-RP-03-GE-RES-A
2. **Title** Research for the APO Productivity Databook and Database
3. **Timing and Duration** November 2015–October 2016 (one year)
4. **Venue** Participating member countries
5. **Number of Participating Countries** Nineteen national experts and one chief expert
6. **Closing Date for Nominations** 30 November 2015
7. **Objectives**
 - a. To monitor and provide analysis of the most up-to-date socioeconomic performance and productivity trends in APO member economies and other reference economies based on the internationally harmonized methodology;
 - b. To develop regional productivity accounts for the entire APO membership and some regional groups by each country's productivity account and the price differential data among countries based on the appropriate aggregating methodology;
 - c. To update the APO Productivity Database (PDB) to include growth accounting for 2014 and revise the past series of the PDB based on the most updated system of national accounts (2008SNA) until 1970, in APO member economies and other reference economies;
 - d. To evaluate the potential economic growth perspectives of APO member economies and other reference economies, facilitating population-by-age projections and predicting productivity trends up to 2020;
 - e. To publish the 2016 edition of the *APO Productivity Databook*;
 - f. To renew the Asian Quarterly Growth Map (AQGM) and update the APO Productivity Mobile App with new, streamlined functions to facilitate the use of APO data as a reference source by policymakers, development planners, economic analysts, NPOs, and other stakeholders within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region;

- g. To expand the database to cover potential APO members in the region (e.g., Bhutan and Myanmar).

8. Background

Development planners, economic analysts, and policymakers rely on productivity and economic statistics to analyze socioeconomic progress and set development goals as targets for potential growth in the future. To support the needs of such stakeholders and fulfill its think tank and regional adviser roles, the APO has conducted research on productivity measurement and developed the comprehensive PDB since 2007.

The research gathers and examines data to develop the PDB under an internationally harmonized measurement framework, allowing cross-country productivity analyses. These data are updated, expanded, and published annually in two main forms of research output: the *APO Productivity Databook* series, and APO PDB on its website since 2008. This project has also produced the online AQGM since 2009. Moreover, since last year, the project has conducted the first-phase development of the mobile app of the APO PDB for wider outreach to the general public.

The APO has been gradually gaining the status of a credible international productivity data authority, and prominent business and economic analysts and policymakers refer to both the databook and PDB. APO data are also used and cited in economic journals and academic papers. It is envisioned that the project will provide enriched data and information in the *APO Productivity Databook* series, with a view to developing the data into one of the main sources of productivity information on which policymakers in the region can base their productivity policies.

9. Scope and Methodology

Scope

- a. Sources of economic growth, covering labor productivity, capital productivity, and total factor productivity;
- b. Industry origins of economic growth, including sector-based analysis of productivity, employment, and price competitiveness;
- c. Analysis of labor quality changes to capture a more accurate picture of productivity levels; and
- d. Analysis of energy productivity and carbon intensity of energy to depict sustainable development status.

Methodology

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

- c. Research collaboration.

10. Qualifications of National Experts

To ensure continuity and maximize efficient knowledge accumulation for the research, national experts from the databook research project in 2014 will be given priority for this project. NPOs are expected to nominate the same experts, subject to their availability.

The qualifications required for national experts for this project are:

- a. Government statisticians from national statistics offices or central banks of member countries with comprehensive knowledge of **national accounts, labor statistics, and industry data**.
- 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 will assume management, advisory, and supervisory roles in the project and be responsible for producing the 2016 edition of the *APO Productivity Databook*, which is expected to be delivered by September 2016, as well as the APO PDB 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 30 November 2015.

- 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 do not meet the criteria 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