PROJECT NOTIFICATION

26 October 2018

1.	**Project Code**	18-RP-13-GE-RES-A
2.	**Title**	APO Productivity Databook and Database
3.	**Timing and Duration**	October 2018–September 2019 (one year)
4.	**Venue**	Participating member countries
5.	**Number of Participating Countries**	One chief expert and 19 national experts
6.	**Closing Date for Nominations**	25 January 2019

7. **Objectives**

a. To monitor productivity trends and provide analysis of the most up-to-date socioeconomic performance in APO member and other reference economies based on the internationally harmonized methodology;
b. To update the APO Productivity Database (PDB) with the latest estimates for APO member countries and other reference economies;
c. To expand the projections of economic growth and labor productivity in APO member countries; and
d. To publish the 2019 edition of the *APO Productivity Databook*.

8. **Background**

Productivity policymakers, economic analysts, and development planners in member countries rely on productivity data and economic statistics to analyze socioeconomic progress and set goals for potential growth in the future. To assist these stakeholders in monitoring productivity gaps and set new targets for the future productivity movement, while fulfilling the roles of think tank and regional adviser, the APO has conducted annual research projects on productivity measurement and developed the comprehensive PDB since 2007. The research output has been published in two main forms, the *APO Productivity Databook* series and the APO PDB on the website, since 2008.

Under an internationally harmonized measurement framework that allows cross-country productivity analyses, the research collects, processes, and examines data to develop the PDB. The *APO Productivity Databook* presents detailed analytical reports on recent and long-term productivity and economic performance in the Asia-Pacific and reference economies. They also provide a useful reference on the quality of economic growth through cross-country comparisons at different development stages. The international comparisons and analyses of such detailed data enable the APO to offer evidence-based policy advisory

services to member countries, contributing to sustainable socioeconomic development through enhanced productivity and competitiveness. The *APO Productivity Databook* is expected to become a main source of productivity statistics for regional policymakers in the Asia-Pacific.

As part of long-term efforts to support member countries in productivity policy making, preparations for the 2019 editions of the *APO Productivity Databook* and PDB are starting. It is planned to expand the projections of economic growth, labor productivity, and total factor productivity (TFP) estimates in APO member countries, which will assist them in drawing implications for the formulation of sound policies for productivity and economic growth. The online data visualization system of the Asia Economic Productivity Map (AEPM) illustrating quarterly economic growth in APO members and annual productivity indicators will also be updated to enhance user-friendliness.

9. Scope and Methodology

Scope
a. Sources of economic growth, covering labor productivity, capital productivity, and TFP;
b. Industry origins of economic growth, including sector-based analysis of productivity;
c. Analysis of labor quality changes to capture a more accurate picture of productivity levels;
d. Analysis of energy productivity and the carbon intensity of energy to depict sustainable development status;
e. Expansion of nationwide databases covering potential APO members in the region, such as Myanmar;
f. Regional growth accounting frameworks for APO member economies and the Asian region;
g. Entries on outputs, labor, and capital inputs for those APO members that have not developed growth accounting frameworks for TFP measurement;
h. Expansion of the database on the productivity of cities (PDB-CITY) allowing international comparisons of productivity data among Asian and other reference cities;
i. Projections of economic growth and labor productivity in APO member countries and reference economies; and
j. Maintaining and updating the AEPM.

Methodology
a. Data collection by national experts following the APO Productivity Measurement Questionnaires; and
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.

10. Qualifications of National Experts

To ensure continuity and maximize efficient knowledge accumulation for the research, national experts from the *APO Productivity Databook* and PDB research project in 2017 will be given priority for this project. NPOs are expected to nominate the same experts, subject to their availability.

The qualifications of 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 expertise required to analyze responses 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 national experts. The chief expert will assume management, advisory, and supervisory roles in the project and be responsible for producing the 2019 edition of the *APO Productivity Databook*, which is expected to be delivered by September 2019, as well as the APO PDB in Excel format and AEPM 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 relevant research costs, including for additional data collection and purchases when applicable.

To be borne by the host country in case of expert meetings and research missions
Local implementation costs.

13. Actions by Member Countries

a. Member countries are requested to nominate candidate national experts by 25 January 2019, in line with the provisions in section 10.

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, the APO will request another nomination or advice on potential candidates.

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.

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