



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 22-IP-20-GE-WSP-A-PN2200007-001

Date of Issue	28 January 2022
Project Code	22-IP-20-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on Decentralized Governance and Public Accountability
Timing and Duration	23–25 March 2022 (three days)
Hosting Country(ies)	Indonesia
Modality	Digital Multicountry
Implementing Organization(s)	Directorate of Productivity Development, Directorate General for Vocational Training and Productivity Development, Ministry of Manpower of the Republic of Indonesia, and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	38
Local Participants	12
Qualifications of Participants	Policymakers and government officials, representatives of government enterprises, and staff of public organizations involved in work on decentralized governance or improving administrative processes, public management, and/or bureaucratic systems
Nomination of Participants	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
Closing Date for Nominations	11 March 2022

1. Objectives

- a. Study the concepts, principles, and forms of decentralization in the public sector and their impact on public accountability.
- b. Explore the opportunities and challenges of different forms of decentralization.
- c. Share experiences and outcomes of decentralization initiatives among member countries.

2. Background

Decentralization is a process where a central authority transfers responsibility for planning, management, and raising and allocating resources to field units of public agencies of subordinate levels of government. In recent years, many countries have begun to undertake decentralization to make government more efficient, responsive, and accountable. The core idea of decentralization is that local organizations may be more efficient and effective at providing public goods of a local nature such as schooling or trash collection than the national government. This is because they have better access to information on local affairs and are better connected to their constituents. However, decentralization may lead to less accountability and more corruption if local areas are less educated and/or have fewer resources.

The Asia-Pacific region has a wide range of models of decentralized governance. The range includes federal systems such as in India and Pakistan; regional governance in Indonesia, Japan, and the Philippines; unitary systems like the Republic of Korea; and deconcentrated systems like Cambodia and Vietnam. Beyond this regional variety, there are also new models of decentralization being explored, backed by blockchain and platform technologies. Given these options, which conditions allow for successful decentralization? Are specific models of decentralization more effective than others? How can we evaluate the outcomes of decentralization efforts?

This workshop will address these important questions and help participants to deepen their understanding of decentralized governance, its impacts on key outcomes like public accountability, different models and practices of decentralization, and how to evaluate decentralization outcomes. The workshop is expected to enable participants to think critically about decentralization initiatives in their own national or local contexts and introduce new, innovative approaches to enhance the effectiveness of current practices.

3. Scope, Methodology, and Certificate of Attendance

The duration of each day's sessions will be around three hours comprising presentations by experts, group discussions, and other relevant learning methods. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

Day 1:

- Understanding decentralized governance
- Decentralized governance models in the Asia-Pacific

Day 2:

- Evaluating decentralized governance outcomes: Public accountability and public service delivery

Day 3:

- Emerging technologies for enabling decentralized governance

The detailed program and list of speakers will be provided two weeks prior to the sessions with announcement of the names of the selected participants.

The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

4. Financial Arrangements

- a. The APO will meet the assignment costs of overseas resource persons and honorarium for up to two local resource persons.
- b. The host country will meet the costs for a virtual site visit(s), either broadcast live or recorded as applicable.

5. Implementation Procedures

Please refer to the implementation procedures for APO digital multicountry projects circulated with this document.

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Secretary-General