



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 22-RC-10-GE-RES-B-PN2200037-002

Date of Issue	11 April 2022
Project Code	22-RC-10-GE-RES-B
Title	Research on Inclusive Innovation Policies for Economic Growth
Timing and Duration	June–December 2022 (seven months)
Hosting Country(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Digital Multicountry
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	Republic of China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Turkey, and Vietnam
Qualifications of National Experts	Policy analysts and academic researchers from institutions specializing in innovation policy, social and environmental challenges, and/or national productivity and economic growth policies with three or more years in the position, excellent English writing and presentation skills, and experience in conducting policy mapping research and interviewing national policymakers
Qualifications of Chief Expert	Extensive knowledge and experience in undertaking international research projects on inclusive innovation policies for economic growth, conducting national analysis, and publishing in English on those topics
Nomination of National Experts	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
Closing Date for Nominations of National Experts	13 May 2022

1. Objectives

- a. Identify the range of inclusive innovation policies employed in APO member economies.
- b. Assess the direction, participation, and governance elements of each inclusive innovation policy.
- c. Examine methodologies for measuring the impact of inclusive innovation policies.
- d. Analyze the role of inclusive innovation policies in removing barriers to the participation of underrepresented actors in innovative activities and recommend how social inclusiveness challenges can be addressed.

2. Background

There is increasing awareness of unequal rates of participation in innovation, meaning that women, minorities, people with disabilities, immigrants, and those from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds are underrepresented. The COVID-19 pandemic is magnifying the impacts of this unequal access to innovative employment on livelihoods, so that the need for greater social inclusion in innovation across demographic groups, industries, and geographic regions is becoming more urgent. The pandemic has also underscored the need for novel ways to rapidly address societal and environmental challenges that affect society's marginalized and vulnerable most acutely.

One response to overcome such unequal access is the promotion of "inclusive innovation" activities. This can be described as the "pursuit of innovation that has social and environmental aims, and local context, at its heart". Inclusive innovation can be either a more inclusive approach to innovation, or a more innovative approach to driving social inclusion, or both.

In this context, "inclusion" refers to greater involvement in and distribution of value-added socioeconomic and environmentally regenerative activities. "Innovation" refers to the development and application of novel products or processes. This includes scientific invention, the filing of patents, and technology-driven activity but also refers to a range of social and management practices, such as new business models and social innovation. Thus, innovation should not be understood as solely associated with technological advances.

Inclusive innovation policies attempt to maximize benefit while reducing inequality and environmental harm. This research project will first examine the social, environmental, and economic potential of inclusive innovation policies. Second, because systematic studies of inclusive innovation policies and their impact are lacking, it will survey those policies in force, how they are designed and governed, how their performance is measured, and which elements drive positive impact in the Asia-Pacific.

3. Scope and Methodology

Scope

- a. Inclusive innovation policy
- b. Social inclusion
- c. Innovation
- d. Policy design
- e. Productivity enhancement

Methodology

- a. In-country research: Each national expert will collect and analyze policy data and write a preliminary report on inclusive innovation policies deployed in the national context. This policy dataset will be circulated prior to the coordination meeting. After the policy datasets are presented and cross-national mapping is compared, in-country research teams will conduct interviews with individuals and teams identified as responsible for designing and implementing the policies.

- b. Coordination meeting of experts: A coordination meeting to finalize the research methodology and framework will be organized. The preliminary reports detailing country-specific situations will be presented in this meeting for feedback from other experts. The virtual sessions will be around three hours each day.

Day 1:

- Research overview
- Research framework
- Methodology and scope
- Data ability and sources
- Preliminary research findings

Day 2:

- Agreement on research framework, format of the final report, and timeline
- Final publication requirements

4. Tasks of Experts

Chief Expert

- a. Develop the overall framework and guidelines for the research.
- b. Present the research framework, methodology, and report structure during the coordination meeting to ensure initial understanding of the framework.
- c. Review the report drafts and provide feedback to the national experts to ensure the quality of the work.
- d. Provide targeted support and advice to the national experts in conducting the research, including specifying a standardized format for data collection and analysis to be followed by each national research team.
- e. Prepare the final report and submit it to the APO Secretariat by the deadline.

National Experts

- a. Collect data at national level following the agreed upon methodology and framework.
- b. Undertake data collection in two steps: 1) identifying and applying the inclusive innovation policy framework to qualified national innovation policies; and 2) conducting interviews with policymakers to gain insights into policy governance, implementation, and performance measurement aspects.
- c. Write country reports on the analyses and findings based on the data collected.
- d. Present the preliminary reports during coordination meetings first by presenting policy data mapping results and then by presenting interview data results.
- e. Revise the reports following the agreement during the coordination meetings and reflect the comments of the chief expert and APO Secretariat.
- f. Cooperate with the chief expert to ensure the quality and consistency of the final report.
- g. Submit the reports following the agreed format to the chief expert and APO Secretariat by the deadline.

5. Financial Arrangements

To be met by the APO

- a. Honoraria for the chief and national experts.
- b. All assignment and relevant research costs.

To be met by experts or participating members

All local implementation costs incurred by the national experts when collecting data at the national level.

6. Actions by Participating Members

- a. Participating members are requested to nominate candidate national experts before the deadline.
- b. Each nomination must be accompanied by the APO biodata form and uploaded to the APO Document Management System (DMS)/Fleekdrive by the NPO.

7. Actions by APO Secretariat

- a. Identify and invite a chief expert to lead the research until its completion.
- b. Coordinate all arrangements related to the research activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mochtan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General