



## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-RC-13-GE-RES-A-PN2100042-001

<b>Date of Issue</b>	30 September 2022
<b>Project Code</b>	21-RC-13-GE-RES-B
<b>Title</b>	Research on Emerging Needs of APO Member Economies
<b>Timing and Duration</b>	November 2022–March 2023 (five months)
<b>Hosting Country(ies)</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Modality</b>	Digital Multicountry
<b>Implementing Organization(s)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Participating Country(ies)</b>	India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Turkiye, and Vietnam
<b>Qualifications of National Experts</b>	National experts should have more than 10 years of business consulting experience for SMEs and large corporations, with extensive knowledge of industrial research involving interviews or surveys
<b>Qualifications of Chief Expert</b>	Extensive knowledge of and experience in undertaking international research or consultancy projects, with a track record of conducting national-level need assessment analysis of business issues related to productivity enhancement and innovation
<b>Nomination of National Experts</b>	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
<b>Closing Date for Nominations of National Experts</b>	4 November 2022

## 1. Objectives

- a. Determine emerging needs for productivity enhancement in selected developing APO members by exploring the successful business models adopted in private-sector firms during the pandemic.
- b. Evaluate the connection between successful deployment of best business practices and productivity in participating member economies.
- c. Create guidelines for successful best practices in private-sector firms for widespread application in APO member economies.

## 2. Background

The disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic have taught valuable lessons on how to increase the capacity for resilience and innovation. The challenges have triggered the creation of innovative ideas and successful companies and firms. The causes and factors behind those successes should be investigated as a guide to enable the development of more innovative firms.

Continuous assessment of emerging needs will help private-sector firms rebound and regrow. It has become more relevant than ever to understand the challenges and needs in reviving the productivity movement in APO member economies in the aftermath of the pandemic. In addition, redirecting the focus of support for sustainable business recovery will involve the adoption of innovations for higher productivity.

According to the World Economic Outlook 2022, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkiye, and Vietnam are grouped into the category of emerging and developing economies. Hence, it is imperative to analyze the needs of APO members that are in the same group to understand their common needs during the postpandemic era and offer specific assistance to advance their national productivity movements. This research will first identify and examine the success factors in high-growth private-sector firms in selected developing APO member economies. The findings will then be synthesized into methods for other enterprises or member economies to achieve similar success to support productivity enhancement. The research will also look at both the business resilience and innovation capacity of developing APO members and ways to strengthen them.

By analyzing the success factors of private-sector firms, this project will generate recommendations on approaches and techniques for successful business operations. This practical know-how derived from real-world examples can be replicated and expanded based on the specific business context in each APO member so that success can be spread across the region.

## 3. Scope and Methodology

### Scope

- a. Business resilience and innovation in developing APO member economies
- b. Best practices to build resilience in private-sector firms
- c. Sustainable recovery in developing APO member economies
- d. Current and future productivity enhancement needs

### Methodology

- a. In-country research: Each national expert will collect and analyze data and write a preliminary report based on the research framework circulated prior to the coordination meeting. The reports will be finalized after the coordination meeting.
- 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. The indicative agenda items are:

Day 1:

- Research overview
- Research framework
- Methodology and scope
- Data availability 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.
- c. Review the drafts and provide feedback to the national experts to ensure the quality of the work.
- d. Provide support and advice to the national experts in conducting the research.
- 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 methodology and framework provided.
- b. Write country reports on the analyses and findings based on the data collected.
- c. Present the preliminary analysis during the coordination meeting.
- d. Revise the reports following the agreement during the coordination meeting and reflect the comments of the chief expert and APO Secretariat.
- e. Cooperate with the chief expert to ensure the quality and consistency of the final report.
- f. 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 national experts when collecting data at the national level.

#### **6. Actions by APO Members**

- a. APO 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. The biodata form is available on the APO website.

## 7. Actions by the 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.



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