



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 24

Date of Issue	10 May 2023
Project Code	23-RC-01-GE-CBD-C
Title	Management of the APO Accreditation and Certification Program
Timing	10 May 2023–31 December 2023
Hosting Country(ies)	APO Secretariat
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Hybrid In-country
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date	Not Applicable
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Support certification bodies (CBs) to meet the APO Accreditation Body (APO-AB) standards; review progress of accredited CBs and ensure that they comply with the standards; and extend cooperation among CBs and harmonize APO certification standards by facilitating a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) among APO members.
Rationale	The APO Accreditation Program aims to enable National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) to be CBs of productivity specialist-related schemes. The transformation of NPOs into CBs is expected to accelerate the development of competent productivity specialists across APO members who could contribute to productivity improvement in their countries.
Background	<p>The APO Accreditation and Certification Program focuses on developing, implementing, and reviewing all activities related to accreditation and certification to continuously cater to the needs of CBs, tap new opportunities, and adhere to international standards.</p> <p>In 2022, the APO-AB accredited the third CB and conducted surveillance assessment of its two pioneer CBs. Other NPOs or their affiliated organizations are now in various developmental stages. The concept of introducing an MRA among APO members was also highlighted during the International Conference on Productivity Accreditation and Certification.</p> <p>This program will maintain the standards of the APO Accreditation and Certification Program and develop an assessment group to assist the APO-AB in conducting CB assessment. The APO-AB will also review the progress of accredited CBs and facilitate an MRA among APO members, which needs continuous discussions among CBs first and then with all members in the second stage.</p>
Topics	Conducting APO-AB Council meetings; Development of assessors; Review of APO certification schemes; Development of an MRA; Technical assistance to CBs; and Support for certification course participants.
Outcome	These multifaceted activities will strengthen the APO-AB management system, enabling CBs to be continuously updated on the latest standards and procedures and gain wider recognition in their countries.
Qualifications	Not Applicable

Please refer to the implementation procedures circulated with this document for further details.



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