



## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 135

<b>Date of Issue</b>	1 June 2023
<b>Project Code</b>	23-RC-20-GE-RES-B
<b>Title</b>	Research on Assessing Needs of APO Members
<b>Timing</b>	7 June 2023–31 December 2023
<b>Hosting Country(ies)</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Venue City(ies)</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Modality</b>	Online
<b>Implementing Organization(s)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Participating Country(ies)</b>	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, I.R. Iran, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
<b>Overseas Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Local Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Closing Date</b>	28 July 2023
<b>Remarks</b>	The above deadline is for nomination of National Experts.

<b>Objectives</b>	Identify and assess the needs for productivity enhancement of identified sectors in selected APO members by analyzing challenges and opportunities faced during and after the pandemic; examine linkages among business resilience, productivity, and innovation at enterprise level; and make recommendations to address the identified needs for strengthening the resiliency and competitiveness of SMEs.
<b>Rationale</b>	Pandemic-related disruptions affecting SMEs have provided important insights on how to boost the capacity for resilience and creativity, sparking the development of original concepts and prosperous businesses. To encourage the creation of more creative, resilient businesses, it is important to look into the reasons and elements that led to such achievements and assess future needs.
<b>Background</b>	<p>Socioeconomic advances were delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, although it provided opportunities to build a resilient future (UNESCAP, 2021). Many SMEs across different sectors were negatively affected, but adapted to external shocks and adjusted to new economic models to survive.</p> <p>SMEs will recover and expand with the aid of continuous assessment of their needs so that appropriate support can be provided to overcome the challenges affecting their growth. This research will help assess APO members' needs in the areas of resilience and innovation. Specifically, it will identify and analyze the challenges and opportunities facing SMEs in different sectors in selected APO members and provide recommendations to strengthen their capacities and suggest strategies to achieve growth and success in a highly competitive market environment.</p>
<b>Topics</b>	Business resilience and innovation; Sustainable recovery; Innovative strategies for resilience in private-sector firms; Approaches and techniques for successful business operation; Key driving forces for SME growth and resilience; Emerging needs for productivity enhancement; and Productivity challenges and needs.
<b>Outcome</b>	Assessment of business resilience and innovation; recommendations on approaches and techniques for successful business operations by analyzing the challenges and opportunities facing SMEs; and inputs for planning future programs to support SME development and productivity enhancement.
<b>Qualifications</b>	At least 5 years of experience, preferably international, in research and business consulting for SMEs, with extensive knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research and firm commitment to completing the assignment by the deadline.

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



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Secretary-General