



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 192

Date of Issue	28 July 2023
Project Code	23-CL-01-GE-TRC-B
Title	Training Course on Digital Manufacturing for SMEs
Timing	13 November 2023–17 November 2023
Hosting Country(ies)	Japan
Venue City(ies)	Tokyo
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	Japan Productivity Center
Participating Country(ies)	Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Turkiye, Thailand, Vietnam
Overseas Participants	18
Local Participants	6
Closing Date	17 September 2023
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Train consultants and trainers in the steps, approaches, and methods to guide SMEs in digital transformation; provide guidance to SMEs in applying the right digital tools in their processes; and sustain the productivity of SMEs.
Rationale	Digital transformation can reduce SME transaction costs, provide quicker access to information, and improve communications among staff, suppliers and networks. It can help SMEs integrate into global markets and significantly enhance the scope of trade. As SMEs form the economic backbone of APO member economies, efforts to strengthen their digital transformation processes continue.
Background	<p>A 2020 study conducted by the APO Center of Excellence (COE) on Smart Manufacturing found that SMEs in most APO members faced challenges in transitioning to Industry 4.0 systems. They are struggling to define the starting point to transform processes from analogue to digital. Although the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital transformation in various industries, SMEs still lack top management support and know-how, while facing market uncertainty, process complexity and incompatibility, and financial constraints. According to the OECD (2020), digital adoption gaps have grown over the last decade, particularly for smaller SMEs with 10-49 employees.</p> <p>In collaboration with the China Productivity Center and Japan Productivity Center, a new APO training manual on digital manufacturing is currently being developed. To test its effectiveness and gain feedback for improvement, the manual will be used for this course. It is expected that this new manual will enable APO members to develop trainers and consultants who will guide SMEs in digital transformation.</p>
Topics	Overview of digital manufacturing; IoT basics; Digital systems and kaizen; Data acquisition and storage through sensors, visualization, analysis, and system construction; and Project management.
Outcome	Enhanced knowledge and capability in applying tools and techniques for digital manufacturing; and participants will be able to guide and advise SMEs on digital transformation and train others in providing consultancy services to SMEs.
Qualifications	Senior management of SMEs and professionals of NPOs and SME development agencies responsible for leading digital transformation projects and providing training and consultancy in productivity enhancement to SMEs.

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



Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General