



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 267

Date of Issue	23 January 2024
Project Code	24-IP-26-GE-WSP-B
Title	Workshop on Value Addition of Gemstone Products for Compliance with International Standards
Timing	22 April 2024–25 April 2024
Hosting Country(ies)	Pakistan
Venue City(ies)	Islamabad
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	National Productivity Organization, Pakistan
Participating Country(ies)	Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam
Overseas Participants	18
Local Participants	6
Closing Date	29 February 2024
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Review international standards on gemstone products; provide comprehensive knowledge of cutting, polishing, designing, and heating techniques; and enhance understanding of best practices and technological advances in gemstone value chains including mining, manufacturing, and trading.
Rationale	Gaining insights into global standards and methods for processing gemstones is advantageous for APO members with gemstone reserves to enhance productivity in the industry, which predominantly consists of SMEs. In line with the APO focus on SME development, this workshop will enhance the capability of SMEs in the gemstone sector to comply with international standards to increase their business and improve productivity.
Background	<p>Substantial gemstone resources are found in most APO member economies, presenting an opportunity for industry growth. Countries like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are well-known gemstone producers. Thailand reported that gems and jewelry products (excluding gold) generated USD8 billion, accounting for 2.8% of total export value in 2022. Pakistan has the fifth-largest reservoirs of gemstones globally, including rubies and emeralds and the abrasive agent corundum. However, this industry faces challenges including inadequate cutting/polishing techniques, a shortage of skilled artisans, lack of supportive policies and business environments, and insufficient access to major gemological labs for affordable testing. Despite the global trend toward ethical, sustainable jewelry, a gap persists in understanding these concepts on the production side.</p> <p>This workshop is designed to address these issues by providing knowledge of techniques and technologies to reduce waste, enhance product quality, and align with international standards.</p>
Topics	Overview of gemstone value chains; Introduction to major international gemstone standards; Advanced techniques for cutting, polishing, and heating; Conducive national policies and business environments; and Best practices.
Outcome	With an enhanced understanding of the industry, participants will be able to disseminate the knowledge and contribute to policy recommendations tailored to their national contexts.
Qualifications	Professionals from gemstone associations, executives and business owners in the sector, and government officials, policymakers, productivity specialists, academics, and consultants involved in the gemstone industry.

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



Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General