



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 291

Date of Issue	8 February 2024
Project Code	23-CL-12-GE-OSM-A
Title	Multicountry Observational Study Mission on Enhancing the Participation of Persons with Disabilities
Timing	24 April 2024–25 April 2024
Hosting Country(ies)	APO Secretariat
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Online
Implementing Organization(s)	Asian Productivity Organization
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	60
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date	8 April 2024
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Evaluate the role of policies and advocacy in promoting disability inclusion in the Asia-Pacific, explore innovative models for disability-inclusive social and business practices, and showcase best examples in promoting participation for persons with disabilities (PWDs).
Rationale	Despite their potential contributions to society, PWDs often face barriers limiting participation in social, economic, and political life, including discrimination, inaccessible infrastructure, limited educational opportunities, and lack of employment prospects. This observational study mission focuses on disability-inclusive models in alignment with the “inclusive productivity” focus area under the APO Vision 2025, drawing from successful initiatives to enhance PWD-friendly practices and foster their active involvement in broader socioeconomic spheres.
Background	<p>According to a recent report by ESCAP, the Asia-Pacific region is home to more than 700 million PWDs. That number is expected to grow due to population aging, health conditions, and natural disasters. Despite this expected increase, PWDs continue to face multiple barriers in their participation in society and are frequently marginalized in development, hindering equitable progress.</p> <p>Acknowledging their potential contributions is vital, not only for productivity but also for meaningful engagement in social and political life and businesses. The APO has conducted several projects to address this issue such as workshops to discuss policies to engage PWDs in agriculture and explore innovative solutions to create more sustainable, accessible workplaces through social entrepreneurship. To continue this effort, this virtual observational study mission will show how to foster inclusivity across diverse sectors for creating more equitable, informed societies.</p>
Topics	Key principles, policies, and global initiatives for disability inclusion; Inclusion of PWDs in employment; Promoting disability-inclusive businesses; Fostering an inclusive society through volunteer activities; and enhancing PWDs’ participation in inclusive disaster management.
Outcome	Impact of policies on disability inclusion in the Asia-Pacific are assessed; and inclusive, innovative social and business models and exemplary initiatives enhancing PWDs’ participation are highlighted.
Qualifications	Government officials, academics, researchers, representatives of NGOs and business associations, and consultants in charge of inclusiveness.

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



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