



## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Reference No.: 356

<b>Date of Issue</b>	27 March 2024
<b>Project Code</b>	24-RC-01-GE-CBD-A-AP01
<b>Title</b>	Workshop Meeting of Heads of APO Certification Bodies
<b>Timing</b>	9 July 2024–12 July 2024
<b>Hosting Country(ies)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Venue City(ies)</b>	Tokyo
<b>Modality</b>	Face-to-face
<b>Implementing Organization(s)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Participating Country(ies)</b>	Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam
<b>Overseas Participants</b>	10
<b>Local Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Closing Date</b>	10 May 2024
<b>Remarks</b>	Not Applicable

<b>Objectives</b>	Discuss and learn from mutual experience and best practices of APO Certification Bodies (CBs), share their challenges in and updates on operating APO certification schemes, and discuss the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Framework, impartiality roadmap, and future needs of CBs.
<b>Rationale</b>	The APO Accreditation and Certification Program involves certification and recertification of CBs that operate APO certification of persons schemes. The APO Accreditation Body (AB) continuously reviews the accreditation management system and devises ways to support CBs. With the growing number of accredited CBs, a workshop meeting of Heads of CBs is therefore important.
<b>Background</b>	<p>Since launching the APO-AB in 2018, seven CBs have been accredited and five NPOs or their affiliated organizations are in various stages of development to become CBs. The role of the APO-AB has become more significant in catering to needs of CBs so that they remain abreast of the latest CB standards compatible with international practices.</p> <p>In the aftermath of COVID-19, the APO-AB took a number of initiatives including harmonization of APO productivity specialist certification schemes, revision of CB assessment standards, development of a CB impartiality plan, technical support for CB promotion, standardization of CB certificates, and, most importantly, the establishment of an MRA Framework for cross-border recognition of certified productivity specialists.</p> <p>The 6th Annual Meeting of the APO-AB Council approved the organization of an inaugural workshop meeting of Heads of CBs for sharing experiences and challenges faced and enhancing mutual cooperation among CBs.</p>
<b>Topics</b>	Report on APO-PS 101:2023 Requirements for Productivity Specialists and APO-GPS 201:2023 Requirements for Green Productivity Specialists; CB impartiality action plan; CB promotion case studies; Sharing CBs' experiences, challenges, and best practices; Standardization of CB certificates; and MRA Framework of APO CBs.
<b>Outcome</b>	Enhanced understanding of CBs in operating the APO certification scheme, strengthened network among accredited CBs, and MRA developed among CBs.
<b>Qualifications</b>	Heads, senior managers, or representatives of APO CBs.

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



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