



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Reference No.: 543

Date of Issue	5 February 2025
Project Code	24-RC-23-GE-COE-C-PH02
Title	Centers of Excellence (COE) Forum: Strengthening the Platform for Enhancing Productivity
Timing	7 April 2025–11 April 2025
Hosting Country(ies)	Philippines
Venue City(ies)	Manila
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	Development Academy of the Philippines and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	ROC, India, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, and Vietnam
Overseas Participants	12
Local Participants	5
Closing Date	5 March 2025
Remarks	Participants will only join the sessions of the CEO Forum on 9-11 April 2025.

Objectives	Exchange information on recent activities, best practices, challenges, and future plans of COE to gain insights into their current status and enhance collaboration; identify key areas for improvement and emerging trends in COE operations; provide updates on the overall strategy of the APO COE Program and Guidelines; and share details of the assessment process scheduled for the second half of 2025.
Rationale	The APO COE Program aims to drive innovation and excellence across members by developing sector-specific expertise hubs. It focuses on advancing productivity, enhancing COE capabilities, and promoting collaboration. The program includes assessments of COE performance to ensure alignment with excellence standards by 2025, supporting continuous improvement and accountability. The APO is organizing a COE Forum for stakeholders, including COE heads, NPO representatives, and key partners. The forum will facilitate discussions on best practices, strategic priorities, and future collaborations, strengthening COE roles in driving innovation, productivity, and sustainable development.
Background	Strengthening collaborations among COE and aligning them with the APO's overarching strategy are essential for fulfilling the APO's mission and vision. In 2024, the COE Program emphasized enhancing current COE performance and preparing them for the next stages of development in 2025. An assessment of COE, scheduled for the latter half of 2025, will yield valuable insights into their strengths and areas for improvement. The upcoming forum will serve as a vital platform to reintroduce COE to updated guidelines, outline the evaluation process, and offer strategic guidance on crafting action plans for future growth.
Topics	Consultation on the future strategy for APO COE program, and detailed planning of the COE assessment process; Status updates from each COE on current programs, challenges, and successes; Discussion on the upcoming evaluation of COE performance, including methods, criteria, and expectations; Strategies for scaling up COE initiatives, expanding their reach, and identifying new areas of excellence; Enhancing cooperation among COE to facilitate the sharing of resources, expertise, and best practices; and Overview of APO support mechanisms for COE and expectations for future collaboration.
Outcome	Partnerships among COE are strengthened; exchanges of best practices and future plans for COE key focus areas; understanding of the APO COE Program and Guidelines; assessment of performance of COE in 2025; and areas where COE require additional support or development to address future challenges are identified.
Qualifications	Heads of existing APO COE, with one additional delegate per existing COE and one per NPO under the capacity-strengthening program for COE proposals.

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



Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General