



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 653

Date of Issue	2 July 2025
Project Code	25-CL-12-GE-CON-A
Title	Conference on Informal-economy Productivity Measurement
Timing	8 October 2025–9 October 2025
Hosting Country(ies)	Lao PDR
Venue City(ies)	Vientiane
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	Lao National Productivity Organization
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	100
Local Participants	30
Closing Date	15 August 2025
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Understand informal-economy productivity concepts; discuss major constraints in informal-economy productivity; examine tools and methodologies for its effective measurement; and share best practices and provide insights into translating measurement findings into actionable strategies and policies for productivity improvement and formalization.
Rationale	The informal economy accounts for a significant share of employment and output in the Asia-Pacific. However, businesses in the informal sector are typically characterized by low productivity, while reliable statistics and supportive policies are often lacking. A sound understanding and effective measurement of informal-economy productivity are essential for informed, inclusive policymaking.
Background	<p>The informal economy accounts for about 66% of total employment in the Asia-Pacific, involving approximately 1.3 billion workers (ILO, 2025). Despite its scale, it is often marked by low productivity, limited access to markets and finance, and exclusion from labor protection and formal policy support.</p> <p>Enhancing informal-sector productivity and reducing its share in the economy is a key priority under the APO Vision 2025. APO research across 10 selected member economies in 2023 identified a major constraint: the lack of consistent, reliable data on informal-sector productivity due to varied definitions and limited statistical capacity. This underscores the urgent need for harmonized measurement frameworks and stronger data systems.</p> <p>This conference aims to address these challenges by exploring practical methodologies for measuring informal-economy productivity and sharing best practices to support inclusive, evidence-based policymaking and advance formalization and sustainable growth.</p>
Topics	Defining informal-economy productivity and its status in the Asia-Pacific; Key constraints to informal-economy productivity; Informal-sector data in national accounts; Harnessing technologies to improve and standardize productivity measurement; Case studies and best practices in measurement and policies; and Panel discussion on translating measurement into actionable policies and strategies.
Outcome	Enhanced understanding of informal-economy productivity, improved measurement capacity, standardization of measurement methodologies and data analysis, and policies and strategies for formalization and productivity improvement of the informal sector in APO members.
Qualifications	Government officials, policymakers, statisticians, economists, and professionals from ministries, statistics offices, and agencies involved in informal-economy productivity measurement and policy development.

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



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