



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 659

Date of Issue	17 July 2025
Project Code	25-CL-15-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Initiatives for SME Development
Timing	9 December 2025–12 December 2025
Hosting Country(ies)	Sri Lanka
Venue City(ies)	Colombo
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	National Productivity Secretariat, Sri Lanka
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	6
Closing Date	8 October 2025
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Deepen understanding of ESG principles and their relevance to business sustainability; learn about regulatory compliance challenges and emerging ESG standards relevant to SME operations, especially to productivity enhancement; and explore practical examples and best practices of ESG implementation among SMEs in APO members.
Rationale	As ESG considerations become critical to business sustainability, SMEs must adapt to evolving regulations and market expectations to ensure long-term sustainability including productivity enhancement. However, many SMEs face challenges such as limited awareness, financial constraints, and technical gaps, making it difficult to integrate ESG principles into their business operations.
Background	<p>ESG factors are increasingly shaping the business landscape, influencing investor decisions, regulatory frameworks, and consumer preferences. While large corporations have the resources to implement ESG strategies, SMEs often struggle to adapt to these changes due to a lack of financial and technical capacity. Strengthening ESG adoption among SMEs is essential for enhancing resilience, improving access to sustainable finance, fostering responsible business practices, and improving productivity.</p> <p>Regulatory requirements, such as sustainability reporting obligations and responsibility frameworks, are creating new expectations for SMEs. Businesses that successfully incorporate ESG principles can improve operational efficiency, build stronger stakeholder trust, and gain a competitive edge. Understanding the evolving ESG landscape and its implications is critical for SMEs to remain viable and competitive in a rapidly transforming market.</p>
Topics	Introduction to ESG factors and relevance to SMEs; ESG regulatory landscape and compliance requirements for SMEs; Practical approaches to integrating ESG into SME business strategies for productivity; ESG reporting and transparency: Challenges and best practices; and Case studies of SMEs successfully implementing ESG initiatives.
Outcome	Participants gain a clear understanding of ESG principles, regulatory expectations, and practical strategies for implementation, enabling them to integrate ESG into their operations, enhance business sustainability, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and improve productivity in the long run.
Qualifications	Government officials, policymakers, and managers of public-sector organizations involved in SME development, sustainability regulations, and business competitiveness, as well as representatives of industrial associations and trade organizations engaged in ESG promotion and SME capacity-building.

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



Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General