



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 698

Date of Issue	2 September 2025
Project Code	24-RC-23-GE-COE-C
Title	Development and Strengthening the Programs of the Centers of Excellence (COE)
Timing	1 January 2024–31 December 2026
Hosting Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Venue City(ies)	All Member Countries
Modality	Hybrid
Implementing Organization(s)	National Productivity Organizations and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date	Not Applicable
Remarks	This PN supersedes the version issued on 30 January 2024 (Reference No. 270) to update the program timing and to remove closing dates mentioned in the “Remarks”.

Objectives	Establish COE in APO members through identification of outstanding competencies in productivity enhancement; foster innovation; strengthen existing COE within their specific domains; facilitate collaboration and sharing of best practices in the focus areas; and monitor and assess the performance of existing COE to ensure their excellence.
Rationale	Creating a collaborative environment to spread the know-how and best practices of one APO member to others is a key methodology for improving productivity. By consolidating the expertise throughout the Asia-Pacific, the COE Program facilitates regional cooperation and serves as a catalyst for knowledge sharing, skill development, and exchanging productivity know-how.
Background	The APO COE Program both enhances the competitiveness of individual members and creates a network for sharing successful productivity initiatives, thus accelerating overall development in the region. It brings together experts and resources in specific fields to drive innovation, efficiency, and excellence among APO members to collectively contribute to overall growth, competitiveness, and adaptability in the Asia-Pacific region. The COE development model is delivered in a “1-3-1”-year three-phase life cycle: designation; delivery; and replication. In 2024, the COE Program focuses on scaling up and assessing the status of existing COE performance to determine their next stages. Evaluation and strengthening of their capacities while identifying and developing new COE in required areas of excellence will be conducted.
Topics	Sharing know-how and excellence related to specific focus areas through research, training, workshops, pilot projects, and study missions; Developing and publishing training kits, manuals, and case studies; Organizing a forum for experience sharing and expanding cooperation among COE; and Assessing existing COE to determine their status in line with the COE guidelines.
Outcome	Increased organizational and individual capacity of COE to disseminate know-how in their areas of excellence and new COE created on focus areas supporting the APO Vision 2025.
Qualifications	Organizations/institutions that have demonstrated outstanding competence and acted as catalysts in promoting best practices in COE focus areas as well as those appointed by the Governing Body to be APO COE.

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



Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General