



## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 739

<b>Date of Issue</b>	18 November 2025
<b>Project Code</b>	25-RC-11-GE-RES-A
<b>Title</b>	Research on the Educational Divide and Implications for Productivity
<b>Timing</b>	18 November 2025–31 December 2026
<b>Hosting Country(ies)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Venue City(ies)</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Modality</b>	Hybrid
<b>Implementing Organization(s)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Participating Country(ies)</b>	All Member Countries
<b>Overseas Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Local Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Closing Date</b>	19 December 2025
<b>Remarks</b>	The closing date is for the submission of proposals by research institutions. Please refer to the implementation procedures for information.

<b>Objectives</b>	Analyze the educational divide among APO members; evaluate its implications for productivity; explore challenges and opportunities in this field led by technological advances, including AI; and provide policy implications for stakeholders for fostering inclusive economic growth.
<b>Rationale</b>	The educational divide refers to the disparity in educational attainment and achievement among different groups within a population. It can have significant implications for productivity. To bridge the divide for inclusive economic growth, it is important to examine implications for productivity, identify root causes and opportunities, and suggest policy interventions to bridge it.
<b>Background</b>	<p>The OECD highlights that macroeconomic gains from human capital arise from both increased access to education and improving its quality (2022). Significant educational disparities, such as restricted access and unequal opportunities for high-quality education among certain segments of the population, can lead to the creation and entrenchment of a low-skilled, low-productivity workforce, posing a threat to inclusive productivity.</p> <p>Recent technological advances, including AI, provide opportunities for improving both educational attainment and quality, but may also widen the educational divide, resulting in skill polarization and exacerbating job–education mismatches due to skill-biased economic growth. This research examines the implications of the educational divide for productivity, explores emerging issues and opportunities, and recommends strategies to reduce disparities and promote inclusive productivity in APO member economies.</p>
<b>Topics</b>	Impact of the educational divide on productivity; Underlying issues of the educational divide; Opportunities and challenges from technological advances, including AI; and Policy measures by stakeholders to bridge the educational divide.
<b>Outcome</b>	Improved understanding of the educational divide’s implications for productivity; identification of key issues and opportunities; and development of policy recommendations and best practices for APO members to reduce disparities and enhance inclusive productivity.
<b>Qualifications</b>	Policy analysts or academic researchers specializing in education and productivity policy.

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



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