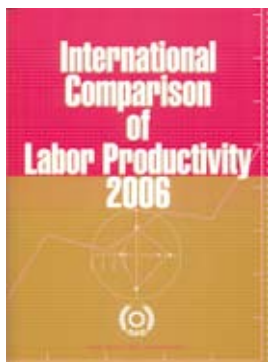




## New APO publication



# INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF LABOR PRODUCTIVITY 2006

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As the sole international productivity organization in the Asia-Pacific region, the APO performs the important role of initiating, maintaining, and disseminating the productivity movement in its member countries. The rapidly changing socioeconomic environment has led to a diversification in their interests and needs as they attempt to meet the challenges of globalization and technological progress. To adapt to new trends, the APO recognized the necessity of benchmarking the status and economic performance of each country. Knowledge of where a country currently stands on the productivity ladder will allow for more effective and timely planning and implementation of need-based projects.

In line with its benchmarking initiative, the APO decided to revive the publication of its productivity data and analysis series to provide member countries with a reliable data resource to consult when determining productivity policies and formulating strategy. In an attempt to offer useful insights into economic growth to member countries, the APO published the *Asia-Pacific Productivity Data & Analysis* series annually from 2001, but its limited impact led to discontinuation after 2004.

To create a more sustainable system of productivity measurement, the APO sought expert advice as part of an in-depth review of the previous databook series. Fact-finding missions were also dispatched to countries in the Asian region and beyond to consult other international organizations on their methods of data collection and analysis. During that preliminary stage, a wealth of information was obtained which will be invaluable in improving upon previous APO efforts.

This publication is the English translation of the reference book *An International Comparison of Labor Productivity* produced annually by the Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development (JPC-SED), the NPO of Japan. It compares labor productivity trends in Japan with those in other OECD member countries, using data obtained from the OECD. Economic indicators and their implications for labor productivity are explained in user-friendly terms, accompanied by graphs and figures. The analyses generated by the JPC-SED are helpful in understanding labor productivity trends, policy implications, and the influence of significant economic indicators.

This translated version will provide member countries with an example of the best practices in labor productivity data collection and analysis. It also serves as a preview of the APO's upcoming databook, which will also focus on labor productivity using methodology similar to that of the JPC-SED. The volume is composed of three major parts: an international comparison of labor productivity in OECD countries; international comparison of labor productivity using data provided by the World Bank and other sources; and international comparison of labor productivity within the manufacturing industry. We hope that this translation will be a useful guide for policymakers and planners in member countries and those interested in comparative productivity statistics.

For order and inquiry on APO publications and videos, please contact the Asian Productivity Organization, Hirakawa-cho Dai-ichi Seimei Bldg. 2F, 1-2-10 Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0093, Japan. Phone number: (81-3) 5226-3920, Fax: (81-3) 5226-3950, e-Mail: [apo@apo-tokyo.org](mailto:apo@apo-tokyo.org)