



APO Asia-Pacific Productivity Data and Analysis 2003

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This publication meets a long-felt need in member countries for a set of vital, fundamental, and authoritative economic and productivity data and their analysis to assist policy-makers, business leaders, researchers, and other concerned parties in their strategic thinking, policy formulation, and socio-economic planning. In addition, since the productivity movement in Asia and the Pacific made its debut almost 50 years ago, much has been invested in organizing programs and activities for promoting and enhancing productivity. The movement has contributed immensely to socio-economic development in the region and there is now an increasing expectation for quantitative evidence of this. For this reason, as stated by Secretary-General Takashi Tajima in his Foreword to the publication, "The APO regards the compilation of productivity data and their analysis as one of its intrinsic duties." Since the publication was first released in 2001, conscious efforts were made to improve it every year. The 2003 edition was released in January this year.

The basic structure and features of the 2003 publication remain the same as in the earlier two editions. Part one comprises analyses of the trends for each of the eight indicator categories, including an executive summary and policy suggestions, by specially appointed national experts for each of the 18 participating countries. Part two is a presentation in table form of 10-year time-series data collected by these experts on 77 highly informative economic and productivity indicators that express the particular strengths and weaknesses of each country. Comparative data for four benchmark (developmentally advanced) countries are also given for key indicators, where this information was available. The sources used for each type of data are also listed.

This 2003 publication differs from its earlier editions in the following respects:

1. The People's Democratic Republic of Laos, which became an APO member in June 2002, was included in the study for the first time. This brings to 18 the total number of participating countries.
2. The number of indicators for which data were collected was increased from 71 in the 2002 edition to 77. When compared with the 42 in the first edition, this represents a substantial expansion in the coverage of this study over the last two years, including data at subsector level.
3. Although the number of categories under which the data are classified remains at eight, the labeling for two has been amended, from "People" to "Human Resources" and from "Trade and Investment" to "International Trade and Investment."
4. For the sake of consistency, the computation of total factor productivity was undertaken by the chief expert for participating countries that were able to provide the necessary basic productivity data. The methodology used is described in the Introduction to this publication.
5. A graph of each indicator for each participating country is no longer provided. They are included on a selective basis by the experts in their analysis reports to support key points they wish to highlight.
6. A new feature of the book is the inclusion of an electronic version in CD-ROM format as part of the book.

"Putting this publication together has proven to be a continuing challenge as we seek to ensure that the data and analyses are accurate, comprehensive, and immediately useful to the readers," said Secretary-General Tajima, adding that "The APO is committed to producing this publication annually as an expression of our core competence in the promotion of productivity practices."

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