



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

5 August 2016

1. **Project Code** 16-RP-17-GE-RES-B
2. **Title** Research on Youth Employment Issues and Human Capital Development for APO Economies
3. **Timing and Duration** November 2016–October 2017 (one year)
Coordination Meeting:
30 November–2 December 2016 (three days)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
4. **Venue** APO Secretariat
5. **Number of Participating Countries** One chief expert and up to nine national experts from the Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam. Other member countries with special interest in this project may nominate candidates upon consultation with the APO Secretariat.
6. **Closing Date for Nominations of National Experts** 3 November 2016
7. **Objectives**
 - a. To analyze the challenges posed by youth employment issues to labor productivity and human capital development; and
 - b. To review the policies and programs initiated by governments in APO member countries focusing on fostering youth entrepreneurship to tackle those challenges.

8. Background

The Pacific region accounts for 45% of the world's youth, defined by the UN as those aged 15–24 years. While new jobs are needed in the next decade to keep up with population growth, young people are still three to five times more likely to be unemployed than adults. In all APO member countries, youth face more than two-fold higher unemployment rates than adults. Many APO member countries are experiencing a “youth bulge,” a period in which young people are far more numerous than all other age-groups combined. Measures to ensure that the youth bulge will turn into a demographic dividend or to maximize the human capital potential and minimize the negative impact of youth employment issues are essential. Many governments have devised public policies and programs to ensure that the increase in the number of working-age youth results in contributions to the productive economic activities of society. Creating and promoting decent employment opportunities for the young has been a

top priority, although there are still insufficient formal-sector jobs to absorb young job seekers in the region. Encouraging youth entrepreneurship is one approach to solve the issues of youth unemployment and underemployment. Youth entrepreneurship is not a panacea to deal with employment challenges, but it could contribute to job creation for both the self-employed and other young people who could be hired by newly formed companies. It also boosts innovation for the economy as a whole by fostering new, innovative models and ideas in the market. The experience gained in setting up and running a business help young people to accumulate human capital by developing skills and knowledge.

In order to help member countries deal with the challenges posed by youth employment issues, the APO will conduct research to study the policies and programs initiated by different governments focusing on youth entrepreneurship promotion. Policies and programs such as, but not limited to, policies supporting start-ups for young entrepreneurs, programs in educational curricula to foster entrepreneurial skills for young people, programs to unleash potential and help young people transform their creative, innovative ideas into successful business plans, etc. will be analyzed. The research output will also help identify and design appropriate capacity-building programs the APO could provide to help member countries deal with youth employment issues effectively.

9. Scope and Methodology

Scope:

- 1) Coordination meeting of experts: A meeting will be held 30 November–2 December 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The tentative topics to be covered in this meeting are:
 - a. Discussion and finalization of the research framework and methodology to undertake the research (data sources, data collection, data analysis);
 - b. Discussion on challenges to productivity and human capital development posed by youth unemployment and underemployment;
 - c. Discussion and deliberations on policies and programs of governments to promote and foster youth entrepreneurship as part of the solution to youth employment issues and their best practices; and
 - d. Finalization and agreement on the final report format.
- 2) Conducting in-country research: Each national expert will gather and analyze data under the guidance of the chief expert based on the agreed methodology and framework of the research. The experts will be responsible for analyzing the data and preparing a report for review and acceptance by the chief expert and APO.

Methodology:

The research will employ one chief expert who will lead the team of national experts in performing the study.

Chief expert's tasks:

- a. Developing the guidelines and formulating the overall framework for undertaking the research;
- b. Presenting the research framework, methodology, and outline of the report structure and format in the coordination meeting;

- c. Facilitating and concluding the discussions during the coordination meeting;
- d. Providing support and advice to the national experts in conducting the research including data collection and data analysis;
- e. Reviewing the initial draft of the national experts' reports to ensure the quality of the work; and
- f. Preparing the final report and submitting it to the APO Secretariat by the deadline.

National experts' tasks:

- a. Data collection at national level following the methodology, framework, and timeline agreed in the coordination meeting;
- b. Writing country reports on the analyses and findings based on the data gathered;
- c. Submitting the report to the chief expert within the time frame and following the agreed format; and
- d. Cooperating with the chief expert to ensure the quality and consistency of the final report.

10. Qualifications of National Experts

The national experts are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Present Position	Researchers or policy analysts who have sufficient background in and knowledge of youth employment issues and productivity, human capital development for the young, and youth entrepreneurship development and promotion.
Experience	At least seven years of experience in the position described above.
Education	University degree or higher in economics or labor studies from a recognized university/institution.
Language	Sufficient English proficiency to communicate with the APO Secretariat and the chief expert on the matters relating to the research and excellent writing skills.
Health	Physically and mentally fit to commit him/herself to a one-year period of research.
Age	Candidates who fit the above profile are typically between 35 and 50 years of age.
Other	A strong commitment to undertaking and completing the research within the time frame is necessary; published articles, books, or substantive reports on youth employment policies are desirable.

11. Qualifications of the Chief Expert

The APO will appoint a chief expert for this project to guide the group of national experts in undertaking the research. The APO-appointed chief expert must possess the following:

- a. Extensive knowledge of youth employment issues, policies for youth entrepreneurship

development and promotion, and human capital development for young people and having published in English on those topics is desirable;

- b. Excellent English writing and presentation skills as the final report will be written in English; and
- c. Strong commitment to undertaking and completing the research project within the given time frame and producing the consolidated analysis of all national reports.

12. Financial Arrangements

To be borne by the APO

- a. Honoraria for the chief and national experts to be paid upon completion of the final research report;
- b. All assignment costs for the chief and national experts including daily subsistence allowances, miscellaneous expenses, and round-trip international airfare by the most direct route between the international airport nearest to the experts' place of work and Kuala Lumpur for attending the coordination meeting for the research;
- c. Travel insurance coverage against accident and illness for the entire duration of the coordination meeting and travel; and
- d. Local implementation costs for the meeting package including meeting room rental and required equipment.

To be borne by experts or participating countries

- a. Any expenses incurred by the experts for extra stay at the venue before and/or after the official project period due to early arrival, late departure, or any other reason must be borne by the experts for attending the coordination meeting; and
- b. All local implementation costs incurred by the national experts when conducting the research and related activities at the national level.

13. Actions by Member Countries

- a. Member countries included in the research are requested to submit appropriate nominations (preferably more than two for consideration) by 3 November 2016, in line with the provisions in section 10.
- b. Each nomination should be accompanied by the candidate's biodata on the standard APO form in duplicate along with a passport-sized photograph. In addition to the standard APO form, nominees should also prepare a list of publications, research, and/or consulting projects they have undertaken in this field. A nomination lacking any of these documents will not be considered.
- c. The selection of national experts will be based strictly upon their professional qualifications and experience, academic background, and commitment to this research.

14. Preparatory Work by National Experts

The selected national experts will be instructed to prepare a preliminary report. The preliminary findings will be presented at the coordination meeting in Kuala Lumpur and will

form the basis for further deliberations and development of the research. The detailed guidelines for the preliminary report will be provided later.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mari Amano', written over a faint, illegible background.

Mari Amano
Secretary-General