



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 439

Date of Issue	26 July 2024
Project Code	24-CP-61-GE-TRC-A
Title	Training Course on Digital Kaizen for SMEs
Timing	11 November 2024–15 November 2024
Hosting Country(ies)	Japan
Venue City(ies)	Tokyo
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	Japan Productivity Center
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	6
Closing Date	17 September 2024
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Understand approaches to and methods for digital transformation at enterprise level; build knowledge based on leveraging kaizen techniques to maximize returns on digital interventions; and highlight improvements in productivity, profitability, and employee well-being through applications of digital kaizen.
Rationale	Digital technologies, which are rapidly advancing and evolving, are applicable in almost all business processes. Integrating the Japanese concept of kaizen during the digital transformation journey inculcates the culture of continuous improvement within enterprises for robust business growth.
Background	<p>The APO Productivity Outlook 2022 and numerous other studies reported that COVID-19 had impacted manufacturing productivity negatively. Manufacturers need to leverage digital technologies to streamline business operations, enhance process efficiency, and improve product quality and customer satisfaction. Although the pandemic accelerated the adoption of technologies, SMEs still face challenges in effective use of data and maximizing returns on investment.</p> <p>SMEs can integrate technologies like the IoT into kaizen activities to enhance productivity, foster digitalization, and enable business growth. The APO, with support from the China Productivity Center and Japan Productivity Center, is developing a Digital Kaizen Handbook. This training course will draw references from that handbook for incorporating IoT and kaizen processes.</p>
Topics	Conventional productivity tools and techniques; Digital interventions and their implications; Key elements of digital kaizen; Implementation approaches to and strategies for digital kaizen; Addressing challenges and barriers in the digital kaizen journey; and Case studies, site visits, and group exercises.
Outcome	Dissemination of the digital kaizen concept among APO members, participants gain knowledge of and skills in digital kaizen applications, and projects on digital kaizen are launched among SMEs in APO members.
Qualifications	NPO consultants and trainers, representatives of industrial associations, SME owners or senior managers, and government officials working on SME capacity building and formulating policies on productivity enhancement through digital technology interventions.

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



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