



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 287

Date of Issue	17 January 2025
Project Code	24-CL-06-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on Transformation of the Informal Economy
Timing	17 March 2025–19 March 2025
Hosting Country(ies)	Fiji
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Online
Implementing Organization(s)	National Training and Productivity Centre, Fiji National University and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	38
Local Participants	12
Closing Date	28 February 2025
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Understand the scale, impact, and challenges of the informal economy; learn about effective approaches and policies for addressing the informal economy; and explore digital technology applications to transform the informal economy.
Rationale	Activities of workers without formal contracts and outside the protection of labor laws, such as most street vendors and domestic workers, are categorized as part of the informal economy. The informal workforce is a major contributor to employment in APO member economies. Addressing the informal economy is part of our efforts to promote inclusiveness in enhancing productivity.
Background	<p>The informal economy encompasses all economic activities carried out by workers and economic units that are either not covered or insufficiently covered by formal regulations, whether in law or practice. In many APO members, a significant proportion of workers and businesses operate within the informal sector. According to the 2024 APO report, Informality, Productivity, and Financial Inaccessibility: A Study of Selected APO Members, 68.2% of the population in the Asia-Pacific region was employed in the informal sector. The APO reported that the informal sector was strongly linked to low productivity and emphasized the need for effective policy initiatives to remove constraints faced by enterprises in the informal sector while enhancing the skills and human capital of its workers.</p> <p>With the increasing availability and affordability of digital tools and platforms, particularly for job opportunities, education, and government-related registrations, approaches to tackle issues within the informal economy need to be revisited and modernized. This workshop aims to explore innovative strategies to transform the informal economy.</p>
Topics	Scale, impact, and challenges of the informal economy; Emerging trends in the labor environment, such as digital platforms and gig work; Implications of digital technologies for policies and strategies to transform the informal economy; and The future of the informal sector.
Outcome	Updated understanding of informal economy issues in the digital era, and enhanced knowledge of the potential applications of digital technologies to strategies and policies to strengthen the capacities of workers and business units in the informal sector.
Qualifications	Government officials involved in policymaking for the informal sector and representatives of NPOs, industrial associations, and firms providing productivity consultancy and training for the informal economy.

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



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Secretary-General