



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 587

Date of Issue	18 April 2025
Project Code	25-RC-17-GE-RES-B
Title	Research on Productivity Enhancement in the Healthcare Sector through Digital Transformation
Timing	18 April 2025–31 December 2025
Hosting Country(ies)	Not Applicable
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Hybrid
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	Bangladesh, Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date	19 June 2025
Remarks	The above closing date is for the nomination of national experts.

Objectives	Identify key opportunities and challenges for productivity enhancement in healthcare through digital transformation; assess digital transformation's effectiveness in improving accessibility, affordability, and universal health coverage (UHC) aligned with SDG 3; and analyze impacts and implementation strategies of digital health interventions in developed and emerging APO members.
Rationale	An October 2023 UN ESCAP report found that the Asia-Pacific region had achieved only 14.4% progress in meeting SDG targets, far below the 50% goal. Aging, chronic diseases, financial burdens, and COVID-19 worsened healthcare inequalities. The impact of digitalization on healthcare remains unclear. This research will analyze challenges, opportunities, and policy insights for APO members.
Background	<p>Rapid advances in digital technologies are transforming healthcare, improving efficiency, accessibility, and service quality. Asia-Pacific economies are at different stages of adopting digital health solutions, influenced by economic development, infrastructure, and policy frameworks. While developed nations leverage AI-driven diagnostics and telemedicine, emerging and developing ones face challenges such as financial constraints, regulatory barriers, and limited digital literacy.</p> <p>Despite its potential, digital transformation has not fully addressed disparities in healthcare access, affordability, and service delivery. Understanding its impact on healthcare productivity across diverse economies is crucial. This research will evaluate digital interventions and identify best practices for optimizing healthcare systems in APO members. It will also highlight the characteristics of advanced and emerging nations, fostering future collaborations between developed and developing countries to achieve SDG 3.</p>
Topics	Digital transformation in healthcare; Data privacy and security; AI and machine learning in healthcare; Digital health policies and regulations; UHC; Healthcare digitalization challenges; and Sustainable impact on healthcare productivity.
Outcome	Insights into digital transformation's impact on healthcare productivity, accessibility, and affordability; identification of challenges, best practices, and policy recommendations for APO members; and fostering collaboration among members to advance SDG 3 achievements.
Qualifications	Professionals in healthcare, digital technology, data analytics, and health policy, with experience in research, field projects, community engagement, advanced digital health tools, and innovative healthcare delivery, with a strong record of research and publications in English.

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



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