PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 578

Date of Issue	14 March 2025
Project Code	25-RC-18-GE-RES-B
Title	Research on AI Adoption for Productivity Improvement in the Public Sector
Timing	20 March 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, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date	25 April 2025
Remarks	The closing date is for the submission of proposals by research institutions. Please refer to the implementation procedures for information. The participating countries are the focus of this research.

Objectives	Analyze the AI landscape in APO public sectors via domain-specific scenarios; develop sector-specific frameworks for effective AI implementation while identifying agency challenges in public acceptance; and offer preliminary frameworks to enhance productivity through qualitative and quantitative improvements that integrate data sovereignty, ethical/legal safeguards, and robust data governance.
Rationale	AI enhances efficiency and productivity in public-sector services. However, many APO members have limited expertise, inadequate frameworks, and issues of data sovereignty, ethical/legal safeguards, and data governance. This project bridges those gaps with sector-specific tools and frameworks for effective AI adoption for transparent, accountable, sustainable improvements in public service delivery.
Background	The adoption and effective use of AI vary significantly among public-sector organizations in APO members. Public agencies face unique challenges in data governance, cross-border regulation of global platform providers, and ethical and legal dilemmas that lack straightforward solutions. A November 2024 study by the Hoover Institution at Stanford University found that a quarter of US civil servants use generative AI for work-related tasks, providing a valuable benchmark for APO economies, where challenges stem from the lack of tailored frameworks, sector-specific expertise, and strategic knowledge. Enhancing productivity in the public sector requires not only technical innovations but also active public engagement and understanding. Building on Vision 2025's emphasis on technological advances and using AI to enhance productivity, this research leverages past initiatives to elevate technological literacy and public-sector productivity in selected advanced and emerging economies.
Topics	In-depth analysis of the public-sector AI landscape; Sector-specific AI frameworks for the public sector (e.g., administrative services, healthcare, education, and social welfare); Challenges in AI adoption in government agencies; and Utilization of AI technologies to improve public-sector productivity including data governance, cross-border regulation, and ethical safeguards.
Outcome	Comprehensive report on the public-sector AI landscape in APO members; preliminary policy frameworks developed; and identification of challenges for public-sector AI technical readiness, institutional barriers, and data governance issues.
Qualifications	Research institutions with extensive technical knowledge of AI adoption and technology governance for productivity improvement in the public sector, including ability to produce English publications on AI-driven public-sector productivity frameworks and implementation strategies.

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

Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General