



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-CP-09-GE-WSP-A-PN2100044-001

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| Date of Issue | 01 June 2021 |
| Project Code | 21-CP-09-GE-WSP-A |
| Title | Workshop on Modern Food Transportation and Regulation |
| Timing and Duration | 13–15 July 2021 (three days) |
| Hosting Country(ies) | Philippines |
| Modality | Digital Multicountry |
| Implementing Organization(s) | Development Academy of the Philippines and APO Secretariat |
| Participating Country(ies) | All Member Countries |
| Overseas Participants | 19 |
| Local Participants | 12 |
| Qualifications of Participants | Policymakers and government officials, executives of farmers'/agribusiness associations, representatives of SMEs, and academics and consultants working on food transportation |
| Nomination of Participants | All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries |
| Closing Date for Nominations | 24 June 2021 |

1. Objectives

- a. Enhance participants' understanding of modern food transportation and the role of regulations to meet current consumer demand for higher-quality, safe food, fast delivery, and long-distance transportation.
- b. Learn about smart transformation of food transportation using ICT and cold chain systems in the current situation.
- c. Identify best practices of modern food transportation in terms of logistics to facilitate faster delivery and the policy support needed to ensure seamless movement of food.

2. Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unexpected disruptions in food systems affecting production and processing, transport, and logistics before reaching consumers. To address these disruptions, particularly the movement of food, key players in supply chains should introduce new ways to ensure the continued availability of food while maintaining high quality and the safety of food handlers.

Transportation is one of the key factors to ensure food delivery and meet consumer demand. Concerns in transporting food include long waiting times, long distances, a variety of manual tasks, difficulties in managing the quality of fresh produce, and high frequency of small-lot deliveries. However, the current situation under the pandemic has created other challenges including the safety of food handlers and drivers in addition to consumers.

Progress in ICT has contributed to making food transportation more efficient. For instance, truck drivers can communicate with customers, other drivers, and their companies via tablet terminals. Customers' requests for parcel pickup or redelivery are uploaded in real time. At the same time, companies can monitor drivers' locations. Bar code-labeled parcels allow the monitoring of the delivery process, and receivers' information can be obtained from QR codes for later pickup at convenience stores or other locations. These systems became more important during the current pandemic, enabling a steady supply of high-quality food while ensuring the safety of food handlers, drivers, retailers, and consumers.

In addition, controlled-temperature environments are critical to maintaining food quality during processing, storage, and transport. The new standard developed by the International Organization Standardization (ISO) provided the guidelines for cold chain systems including temperature-controlled parcel delivery services.

Other than infrastructure support and cold chain system standards, policy support through smart regulations is also required to facilitate the ease of doing business and address any disruptions in food systems. Safety nets are needed to guarantee steady supply and smart transformation to meet consumer needs in normal and disruptive circumstances.

This workshop will discuss smart transformation of food transportation through infrastructure and policy support to meet consumer needs for the timely, steady delivery of high-quality food and to improve productivity by reducing losses and waste.

3. Scope, Methodology, and Certificate of Attendance

The duration of each day's sessions will be around three hours comprising presentations by experts, group discussions, and other relevant learning methods. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

Day 1:

- Global trends, challenges, and opportunities in food transportation during and after the COVID-19 pandemic
- Smart transformation of food transportation

Day 2:

- Cold chain logistics

- Food transportation management systems based on international standards

Day 3:

- Policy and regulatory responses to facilitate the efficient transportation of food
- Successful models of food transportation in Asia

The detailed program and list of speakers will be provided two weeks prior to the sessions with announcement of the names of the selected participants.

The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

4. Financial Arrangements

- a. The APO will meet the assignment costs of overseas resource persons and honorarium for up to two local resource persons.
- b. The host country will meet the costs for a virtual site visit(s), either broadcast live or recorded as applicable.

5. Implementation Procedures

Please refer to the implementation procedures for APO digital multicountry projects circulated with this document.



Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General