



## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.:21-RC-07-GE-RES-A-PN2100040-001

<b>Date of Issue</b>	27 May 2021
<b>Project Code</b>	21-RC-07-GE-RES-A
<b>Title</b>	Research on the Complementarities of the Circular Economy and Green Productivity
<b>Timing and Duration</b>	July–December 2021 (six months)
<b>Hosting Country(ies)</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Modality</b>	Digital Multicountry
<b>Implementing Organization(s)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Participating Country(ies)</b>	All Member Countries
<b>Qualifications of National Experts</b>	Policy analysts or academic researchers specializing in green growth policy and/or circular economy-related frameworks with a track record of experience, three or more years in the position, and excellent English writing and presentation skills
<b>Qualifications of Chief Expert</b>	Extensive knowledge of circular economy frameworks and related initiatives at national level, Green Productivity, resource efficiency, the Sustainable Development Goals, and green growth policy with a track record of experience and publications in English on those topics
<b>Nomination of National Experts</b>	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
<b>Closing Date for Nominations of National Experts</b>	30 June 2021

## 1. Objectives

- a. Examine and map out national circular economy principles and policies being evolved by APO member countries.
- b. Analyze complementarities between circular economy principles and APO Green Productivity (GP) strategies.
- c. Develop recommendations to upgrade and strengthen GP to make it more relevant and effective in addressing emerging global challenges through alignment and synergies with national circular economy frameworks and practices.

## 2. Background

The APO introduced the GP concept in 1994, two years following the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. GP is the APO's response to the renewed global commitment to environmental preservation following the adoption of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development by more than 178 governments.

The GP concept was formulated as a strategy for simultaneously enhancing productivity and environmental performance for overall socioeconomic development. It combines productivity and environmental management tools, techniques, and technologies that reduce the environmental impact of a firm's or organization's activities, products, and services while enhancing profitability and competitive advantage. Overall, GP is positioned as a holistic strategy to ensure economic progress and competitiveness while tackling environmental issues and championing sustainability.

Attention to sustainability has gained ground in recent years with the emergence of new approaches and concepts such as the circular economy, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and resource efficiency. Among those approaches, the circular economy attracts wide interest due to its potential vast contributions. The European Commission in its report in 2015 estimated that an annual USD4.5 trillion could be saved globally by adopting circular economy practices. The circular economy approach refers to an economic system that enhances the efficient use of resources and is being widely adopted globally, including by APO member countries.

This research will examine the complementarities between GP and circular economy principles with the aim of updating and strengthening the GP strategy, making it more aligned with the SDGs and the latest global environmental preservation trends, and enhancing its contributions to member countries' efforts to meet their sustainability goals. The results of this research are expected to contribute to initiatives to enrich and elevate GP, ensuring its continued relevance to address emerging, pressing global issues through the current development of GP 2.0. This research will also achieve one of the strategic objectives of the APO Vision 2025 of promoting robust, proactive GP.

## 3. Scope and Methodology

### Scope

- a. National circular economy frameworks.
- b. Efficiency of resource utilization.
- c. Productivity for green growth and sustainable development.
- d. GP, circular economy alignment, and SDGs.

### Methodology

- a. In-country research: Each national expert will collect and analyze data and write a preliminary report based on the research framework circulated prior to the coordination meeting. The reports will be finalized after the coordination meeting.
- b. Coordination meeting of experts: A coordination meeting to finalize the research methodology

and framework will be organized. The preliminary reports detailing country-specific situations will be presented in this meeting for feedback from other experts. The virtual sessions will be around three hours each day. The indicative agenda items are:

Day 1:

- Research overview.
- Research framework.
- Methodology and scope.
- Data availability and sources.
- Preliminary research findings.

Day 2:

- Agreement on research framework, format of the final report, and timeline.
- Final publication requirements.

#### **4. Tasks of Experts**

##### **Chief Expert**

- a. Develop the overall framework and guidelines for the research.
- b. Present the research framework, methodology, and report structure during the coordination meeting.
- c. Review the drafts and provide feedback to the national experts to ensure the quality of the work.
- d. Provide support and advice to the national experts in conducting the research.
- e. Prepare the final report and submit it to the APO Secretariat by the deadline.

##### **National Experts**

- a. Collect data at national level following the methodology and framework provided.
- b. Write country reports on the analyses and findings based on the data collected.
- c. Present the preliminary reports during the coordination meeting.
- d. Revise the reports following the agreement during the coordination meeting and reflect the comments of the chief expert and APO Secretariat.
- e. Cooperate with the chief expert to ensure the quality and consistency of the final report.
- f. Submit the reports following the agreed format to the chief expert and APO Secretariat by the deadline.

#### **5. Financial Arrangements**

##### **To be met by the APO**

Honoraria for the chief and national experts.

##### **To be met by Experts or Participating Countries**

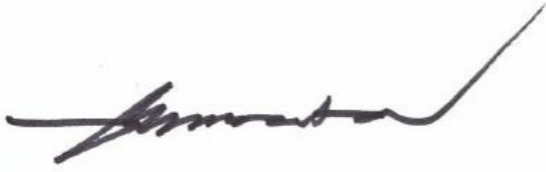
All local implementation costs incurred by national experts when collecting data at the national level.

#### **6. Actions by Member Countries**

- a. Member countries are requested to nominate candidate national experts before the deadline.
- b. Each nomination must be accompanied by the APO biodata form and uploaded to the APO Document Management System (DMS)/Fleekdrive by the NPO. The biodata form is available on the APO website.

## 7. Actions by the APO Secretariat

- a. Identify and invite a chief expert to lead the research until its completion.
- b. Coordinate all arrangements related to the research activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mochtan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan  
Secretary-General