



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-CL-11-GE-WSP-B-PN2100057-001

Date of Issue	21 July 2021
Project Code	21-CL-11-GE-WSP-B
Title	Workshop on Continuing Education for the Aging Societies
Timing and Duration	15–17 September 2021 (three days)
Hosting Country(ies)	Republic of China
Modality	Digital Multicountry
Implementing Organization(s)	China Productivity Center and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	12
Qualifications of Participants	Policymakers and government officials, staff of public organizations, and stakeholders involved in labor and employment, adult education, professional and vocational training, and other aspects of national human resources development
Nomination of Participants	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
Closing Date for Nominations	15 August 2021

1. Objectives

- a. Discuss the issues and contexts of aging societies and their implications for long-term productivity and socioeconomic development.
- b. Underline the importance of continuing, lifelong education as a means of enhancing productivity and creating an inclusive workforce.
- c. Share effective, alternative models of providing continuing education and skilling to older workers.

2. Background

Today, life expectancy rates in the Asia-Pacific are longer than ever. This, coupled with declining fertility rates, means that many APO member economies including the Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Thailand are aging rapidly. The region's elderly population is projected to reach nearly a billion by 2050. This demographic shift will fundamentally change societies and affect business strategies and government policy. The region's past decades of growth were fueled by a population dividend. Now, governments and firms must look for ways to sustain economic growth while dealing with the increasing costs of supporting a larger elderly population through pensions and healthcare. These demographic trends may have significant impacts on national productivity performance and affect other key areas linked to the APO Vision 2025. In terms of productivity, an aging population poses serious challenges. In a 2016 report, the US-based National Bureau of Economic Research estimated that a 10% increase in the elderly population decrease GDP per capita growth by 5.5%, much of which is attributed to slower labor productivity growth. Population aging can also lead to rising economic inequality, with elderly women being more vulnerable to poverty.

One policy channel to address this issue is continuing or lifelong education. Instead of the traditional three-stage life model comprising education, career, and retirement, a multiphase model allows people to retrain, reskill, and upskill and improve employability throughout their lives. Longer life expectancy can be turned into an opportunity for sustained, inclusive economic growth. Initiatives currently being explored for this include adult internships, job brokerages for older workers, and intergenerational service learning. These are being done by organizations such as Amazon with their Returnship program, the SkillsFuture Credit program in Singapore, and UNESCO Bangkok with its Community Learning Centers. Such programs may enable older workers to stay productive longer and continue to earn incomes.

This workshop will discuss the demographic challenges posed by aging societies and different models of continuing education to address these challenges. The emphasis will be on real-life cases from APO member countries and beyond with the aim of enabling public-sector officials and other stakeholders to understand and explore ways to address the issue of an aging workforce, adult education, and long-term productivity.

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:

- Aging society, the future workforce, and productivity
- Introduction to upskilling, reskilling, and continuing education

Day 2:

- Key skills and competencies for the future multigenerational workforce
- National movements to enable lifelong education: sharing best practices

Day 3:

- Practical approaches to continuing education

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.

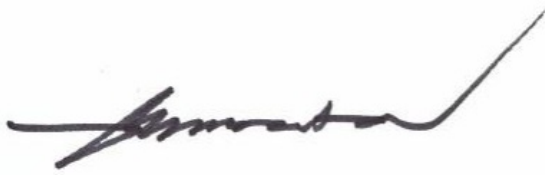
The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

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.

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

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General