



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-CP-31-GE-CON-B-PN2100045-001

Date of Issue	04 June 2021
Project Code	21-CP-31-GE-CON-B
Title	Conference on Promoting the Circular Economy in Manufacturing through Green Productivity
Timing and Duration	30 July 2021 (one day)
Hosting Country(ies)	Vietnam
Modality	Digital Multicountry
Implementing Organization(s)	Directorate for Standards, Metrology, and Quality and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	100
Local Participants	30
Qualifications of Participants	Government officials, policy research officers, senior representatives of industrial associations, productivity professionals, and SMEs representatives working on industrial policy, environmental protection, sustainability, green growth strategies for SMEs and manufacturing sectors, climate change mitigation, innovation, technology upgradation, and resource conservation
Nomination of Participants	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
Closing Date for Nominations	5 July 2021

1. Objectives

- a. Examine the urgency of the impact and consequences of climate change on socioeconomic progress and the environment.
- b. Align and build complementarities between the Green Productivity (GP) framework, tools, and techniques and circular economy approaches.
- c. Share best practices and government policies in promoting circular economy practices in the manufacturing sector.

2. Background

A 2020 World Meteorological Organization report featuring indicators to monitor climate change showed a worsening situation that includes continued increased concentrations of greenhouse gases, global warming, and rising sea levels, among others. These adverse effects are the results of rapid urbanization and industrialization, notably in the Asia-Pacific region. Economic development in the region is also exacerbating the demand for limited raw materials and resources.

This calls for action to accelerate the transition to low-carbon economic growth. The manufacturing sector is an intensive industry in terms of energy and natural resource consumption as it processes inputs into finished products for local use and export. Many APO member economies are based on manufacturing. However, lower energy productivity persists in developing nations when compared with developed ones. This indicates that there is ample scope for improvement in decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation through the adoption of a holistic approach and measures to raise the efficiency levels of industries and shift from the current linear manufacturing structure to circular.

In its mission to contribute to the sustainable socioeconomic development of Asia and the Pacific through enhancing productivity, the APO introduced the GP concept in 1994 to guide enterprises to enhance productivity and profitability with minimal environmental impact. The APO has propagated the GP concept and its framework through capacity-building projects, establishment of a Center of Excellence on GP, demonstration projects, and research. The promotion and adoption of GP form part of the strategic thrusts of the APO Vision 2025 of “Inclusive, Innovation-led Productivity Growth.”

The circular economy, a system-based approach emphasizing the shift to a circular model rather than the current linear “take-make-waste” extractive model, paves the way for enterprises to function in a smart, sustainable manner. The GP framework, which includes the 3Rs of reuse, reduce, and recycle, design for environment, eco-design, and green supply chains, also contributes to the pursuit of a circular economy. However, appropriate actions and roadmaps must be developed at enterprise, regional, and national levels to realize the benefits of sustainable development. This conference will deliberate upon the contribution of the GP framework to leveraging the resources involved in manufacturing processes and building a cleaner industrial ecosystem with net-zero emissions.

3. Scope, Methodology, and Certificate of Attendance

The duration of the sessions will be around four hours. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

- Social, economic, and environmental concerns related to climate change
- Actions for sustainable development
- The GP concept, framework, and strategies
- Development of circular economy framework standards
- Sustainable supply chains
- Harnessing technological advances for smart green industry
- Panel discussion: Implementation of circular economy approaches in manufacturing

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.

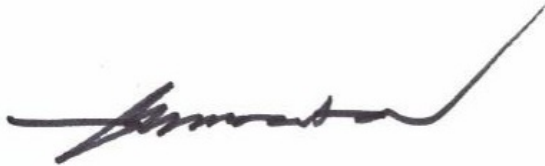
The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

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 'AKP Mochtan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General