



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 221

Date of Issue	23 October 2023
Project Code	23-CL-16-GE-CON-A
Title	Conference on Enhancing Employability of Workers in the Informal Economy
Timing	7 December 2023
Hosting Country(ies)	India
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Online
Implementing Organization(s)	National Productivity Council, India and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Members Countries
Overseas Participants	100
Local Participants	30
Closing Date	23 November 2023
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Discuss the impacts of informal employment on productivity performance, examine the necessary skills to enhance the employability of informal-sector workers in the formal sector, and share government policies and schemes to support informal-sector workers.
Rationale	The informal sector constitutes a large share of employment in APO member economies. Workers in the informal sector often face disadvantages characterized by low wages, job insecurity, and lack of social protection. Supporting informal-sector workers to enhance their employability in the formal economy is vital to raise labor productivity in APO member economies.
Background	<p>The informal economy has expanded over time to become a source of livelihood for billions (World Bank, 2022). In the Asia-Pacific region, the informal sector employs over 61% of workers (ILO, 2020). Despite their role in creating economic value, informal workers are vulnerable due to low wages, unfavorable working conditions, and poor social support and protection by labor laws.</p> <p>Enhancing the employability of informal-sector workers in the formal sector requires a holistic approach. On an individual level, skill gaps could be addressed by equipping informal workers with technical competencies and providing access to vocational training. On a government level, more schemes for informal workers' skill development and offering incentives and subsidies to companies employing them are among possible measures.</p> <p>This conference will examine the existing skill development, supportive policies, and enabling environments to increase the employability of informal economy workers in APO member economies.</p>
Topics	Informal employment implications for economic growth; Employability in productive economic activities; Skill development for informal workers; Inclusive labor laws and social protection measures; and Informal labor and productivity growth.
Outcome	Enhanced understanding of skills required for informal workers to be employable in the formal sector and shared best practices in designing government policies supporting them.
Qualifications	Government officials, policy analysts, and professionals of development agencies responsible for informal workers' support and inclusive labor and social protection policies.

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



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