



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 314

Date of Issue	15 February 2024
Project Code	24-RC-17-GE-RES-A
Title	Research on Enhancing Productivity among Persons with Disabilities
Timing	20 February 2024–31 December 2024
Hosting Country(ies)	Not Applicable
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Online
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date	20 April 2024
Remarks	The above deadline is for nomination of national experts.

Objectives	Study the status of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in APO members; identify structural barriers relating to inclusive employment; and examine employment policy interventions to enhance productive inclusion of PWDs in APO members.
Rationale	APO members have ratified the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and pledged support for targets within the SDGs for inequality reduction for PWDs. However, some members are facing greater challenges in doing so, resulting in critical socioeconomic issues for PWDs. Addressing this situation is a strong need and meets the APO Vision 2025 target of inclusive productivity.
Background	<p>PWDs include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments that may hinder their full, effective participation in society on an equal basis with others (UN CRPD). The WHO estimates that 1.6 billion or 16% of the world population have disabilities (2024), while UNESCAP estimates 472 million of the working-age population in the Asia-Pacific region to be PWDs (2021). The ADB reported that more than half of PWDs in Asia are over 60 years of age (2021).</p> <p>The status of PWDs varies significantly among APO members, with diverse registration standards (ADB), legal status, social policies, economic participation rates, and social attitudes. The fiscal ability of some governments to provide support to PWDs is low. In developing economies, PWDs are more prone to poverty, and females are highly susceptible to abuse (UN).</p> <p>This research will examine country-specific policies and practices in APO members to enhance inclusivity through PWD engagement in economically productive activities.</p>
Topics	PWD prevalence in APO members using a common standard; PWD status in different workforce sectors; survey of existing hard and soft infrastructure and support measures including training and education; Policy changes required for enhancing inclusion of PWDs; and Productivity improvement measures for greater workforce inclusion.
Outcome	Country-specific and broad-based analysis covering existing policy systems, gaps, appropriate policy directions, and strategy frameworks, including recommendations for integrating PWDs into the open market, thereby increasing productivity in APO members.
Qualifications	Academics and policy practitioners with experience in designing and implementing policies in relation to PWDs, with proven research experience and publications.

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



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